

What's News

Business & Finance

Meta Platforms plans to begin large-scale layoffs this week, according to people familiar with the matter, in what could be the largest round in a recent spate of tech job cuts after the industry's rapid growth during the pandemic. **A1**

◆ **Many shoppers are** trading down to less-expensive clothing and accessories as inflation eats into their disposable income and a rocky stock market erodes their wealth. **A1**

◆ **Apple warned** that shipments of its high-end iPhone models would be hindered amid Covid-19 restrictions at one of its major suppliers in China. **B1**

◆ **Merger activity** dropped 43% in recent months and initial public offerings of stock plummeted to their lowest level in more than a decade as the Fed's rate increases siphoned capital out of the markets. **B1**

◆ **Shale companies** are slowing their oil-field activity, keeping U.S. oil production roughly flat and offering little relief for tight global markets. **B1**

◆ **Berkshire Hathaway** swung to a loss as a volatile stock market and losses from insurance underwriting offset gains in its manufacturing, service and retail businesses. **B3**

◆ **Walgreens is near** a deal to combine a unit with the owner of CityMD. **B1**

World-Wide

◆ **Candidates made** their closing arguments to voters in key battleground states during a busy final weekend of campaigning before Election Day, as Republicans grew more bullish on their prospects for victory in the battle for Congress. **A1, A4-5**

◆ **Biden's top** national-security adviser engaged in recent months in confidential conversations with senior Putin aides in an effort to reduce the risk of a broader conflict over Ukraine and warn Moscow against using nuclear or other weapons of mass destruction, U.S. and allied officials said. **A1**

◆ **Sen. Manchin** criticized Biden over comments the president made about moving away from coal plants in favor of wind and solar energy. **A4**

◆ **A weather system** brewing in the Atlantic Ocean north of Puerto Rico may hit Florida's east coast as a tropical storm or hurricane later this week, the National Hurricane Center said. **A3**

◆ **The last eight years** have each been warmer than all years before that period on record, according to a report by the World Meteorological Organization released as the U.N. opened two weeks of climate talks. **A9**

◆ **Shooters opened** fire on a Philadelphia street Saturday night, wounding nine people, four of them critically, police officials said. **A3**

◆ **Died: Aaron Carter**, 34, singer and rapper. **A3**

JOURNAL REPORT

Investing Monthly: 'A Random Walk,' 50 Years Later. **R1-10**

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GEORGIA



PENNSYLVANIA



ARIZONA



TRAIL BLAZING: Clockwise from top left, Senate candidates campaigning Sunday included Democratic Sen. Raphael Warnock, Republican Mehmet Oz, Democratic Sen. Mark Kelly, Republican Blake Masters, Democrat John Fetterman and Republican Herschel Walker.

Candidates Make Final Push As GOP Midterm Hopes Grow

Candidates made their closing arguments to voters in key battleground states during a busy final weekend of campaigning before Election Day, as Republicans grew more bullish on their prospects for victory in the battle for Congress.

By Joshua Jamerson in Atlanta and Eliza Collins in Chandler, Ariz.

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ish on their prospects for victory in the battle for Congress. With voters expressing concern about inflation and dissatisfaction with President Biden's stewardship of the economy, Republicans are heavily favored by nonpartisan analysts to win control of the House of Representatives in Tuesday's elections. Democrats had better odds of keeping their Senate

majority, but Republican candidates were making late polling gains in such states as New Hampshire, Arizona and Pennsylvania. Sen. Maggie Hassan (D., N.H.) has seen her polling lead over Republican challenger Don Bolduc diminish, with a top Republican official on Sunday suggesting the state was now winnable after independents

started breaking late for the GOP. Ms. Hassan enlisted Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D., Minn.) and Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg to campaign for her Sunday. Pennsylvania attracted three commanders in chief on Saturday: President Biden and his two immediate predecessors, Donald Trump and Barack Obama. *Please turn to page A4*

After Quarter Billion Dollars, Georgia Race Is a Toss-Up

Parties bet Walker-Warnock contest will determine Senate majority

By Joshua Jamerson and Cameron McWhirter

ATLANTA—To win a single Senate seat, Republicans and Democrats have spent the equivalent of \$30.83 on every one of the 7.8 million eligible voters in Georgia. That comes to somewhere north of \$241 million and counting.

For all the money spent, Democratic Sen. Raphael Warnock and his Republican opponent, Herschel Walker, a former All-Pro running back for the Dallas Cowboys, remain virtually deadlocked, many polls show. A few have shown Mr. Warnock gaining momentum

in recent days. The Peach State is on the front lines of the nation's midterm elections Tuesday that will determine the majority in the Senate, now split 50-50. Both parties are betting the path to victory runs through Georgia, making it home to one of the most expensive Senate races of all time.

As candidates have done in other tight races, Mr. Walker has ridden inflation worries while Mr. Warnock got a temporary bump from the Supreme Court's rejection of the constitutional right to abortion.

Mr. Warnock, an Atlanta pastor, has in the past been a vocal critic of the Supreme Court. *Please turn to page A6*

Biden, Putin Aides Held Secret Talks

By Vivian Salama and Michael R. Gordon

WASHINGTON—President Biden's top national-security adviser has engaged in recent months in confidential conversations with top aides to President Vladimir Putin of Russia in an effort to reduce the risk of a broader conflict over Ukraine and warn Moscow against using nuclear or other weapons of mass destruction, U.S. and allied officials said.

The officials said that U.S. national security adviser Jake Sullivan has been in contact by phone with Yuri Ushakov, a foreign-policy adviser to Mr. Putin. Mr. Sullivan also has spoken with his direct counterpart in the Russian government, Nikolai Patrushev, the officials added. The aim has been to guard against the risk of escalation and keep communications channels open, and not to discuss a settlement of the war in Ukraine, the officials said.

Asked whether Mr. Sullivan has engaged in undisclosed conversations with Messrs. Ushakov or Patrushev, National Security Council spokeswoman Adrienne Watson said: "People claim a lot of things," and declined to comment further. *Please turn to page A7*

Vintage Photo Booths Baffle a New Generation of Fans

Where are you supposed to look? Why do these film strips smell like chemicals?

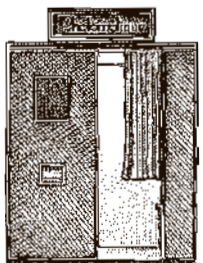
By Hannah Miao

Frianna Gultom wanted her picture taken. The typical selfie wouldn't do.

The 21-year-old Philadelphia waitress has snapped thousands of images with her iPhone, but the black-and-white film photo strips all over TikTok caught her eye. During a trip to New York for a concert, she and a friend hunted down a vintage photo booth in a hotel lobby.

there, and where should she look? The quick succession of flashes surprised her. Then it took about three minutes for the machine to spit out a photo strip, which emerged wet with a sharp, chemical smell.

She didn't like how the first pictures turned out, so she tried another set. Ultimately, the pair pumped in more than \$60 for 10 rounds of old-fashioned snapshots. Worth it, they decided. "Even though we now have an iPhone 14 with better lenses," Ms. Gultom said, "it just doesn't beat the experience of a vintage photo booth." *Please turn to page A6*



Say 'Cheese'

Shoppers Trade Down As Inflation Fears Rise

By Suzanne Kapner

Many shoppers are trading down to less expensive clothing and accessories—swapping Lululemon leggings for Uniqlo and expensive lingerie for Target bras and panties—as inflation eats into their disposable income and a rocky stock market erodes their wealth.

The downshift raises concerns about the coming holiday season, historically a time when many people splurge on designer handbags, fine jewelry and other extravagant purchases for themselves or loved ones. Investors will get updates on shopping attitudes this week when Ralph Lauren Corp., Michael Kors parent Capri Holdings Ltd. and Tapestry Inc., the owner of Coach, report their latest results. "I'm skipping the splurge this year," said Kate Cheng, who owns a jewelry store in

San Francisco. Ms. Cheng said she normally treats herself to a designer handbag or another luxury item during the holidays, but is holding off this year over concerns about a looming recession.

She has noticed a shift in her customers' buying habits in recent months to less-expensive silver jewelry from gold. That has prompted her to curtail her own spending. She switched to Uniqlo leggings instead of products from Lululemon, which cost about twice as much. She also canceled a trip to Maui, which would have cost about \$4,000, and instead plans to take a road trip to New Mexico for about half the price.

Seventy-two percent of consumers plan to look for less expensive alternatives this holiday season as a result of inflation, according to a survey. *Please turn to page A5*

Facebook Parent Prepares Sweeping Layoffs

Meta Platforms' cuts are expected to affect thousands of workers at social-media giant

By Jeff Horwitz and Salvador Rodriguez

Meta Platforms Inc. is planning to begin large-scale layoffs this week, according to people familiar with the matter, in what could be the largest round in a recent spate of tech job cuts after the industry's rapid growth during the pandemic.

The layoffs are expected to affect many thousands of employees and an announcement is planned to come as soon as Wednesday, according to the people. Meta reported having more than 87,000 employees at the end of September. Company officials already told employees to cancel nonessential travel beginning this week, the people said.

The planned layoffs would be the first broad head-count reductions to occur in the company's 18-year history. While smaller on a percentage basis than the cuts at Twitter Inc. this past week, which hit about half of that company's staff, the number of Meta employees expected to lose their jobs could be the largest to date at a major technology corporation in a year that has seen a tech industry retrenchment.

A spokesman for Meta declined to comment, referring to Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg's recent statement that the company would "focus our investments on a small number of high priority growth areas."

Please turn to page A2

INSIDE



WORLD NEWS

Kyiv accuses Iran of training Russians to operate drones used in Ukraine. **A7**



SPORTS

Two Kenyans led the way at the New York City Marathon on Sunday. **A14**

U.S. NEWS

THE OUTLOOK | By James Glynn

Abroad, Housing Feels an Extra Sting



Australia, New Zealand and Canada are home to three of the biggest property booms in recent history, having survived the global financial crisis, recession and Covid-19 pandemic. They might have finally met their match, however, at the hands of an unprecedented pace of global monetary tightening.

While home prices have been strong around the world for decades, these three stand out. They dodged much of the collapse in prices that hit the U.S. ahead of the global financial crisis, and the booms have gathered even more steam during the pandemic. Since 1990, home prices in Australia, New Zealand and Canada are up 532%, 602% and 331%, respectively, compared with 289% for the U.S., according to one measure from research firm Oxford Economics.

All three, however, are particularly sensitive to monetary tightening. Unlike in the U.S., where people often have long-term, fixed-rate mortgages that are protected against rate increases, many home loans in Australia, New Zealand and Canada are effectively at a floating rate, meaning that mortgage payments go up as rates rise.

"Overall, this is the most worrying housing market outlook since 2007-2008, with markets poised between

the prospect of modest declines and much steeper ones," Oxford Economics wrote in a recent note.

While the firm's concerns apply globally, it said Australia, New Zealand and Canada were among the markets most at risk for large price declines. It estimates home prices in Canada could fall 30% and New Zealand prices could drop 20%. In Australia, recently released documents show that central bank economists fear house prices could fall by as much as 20%.

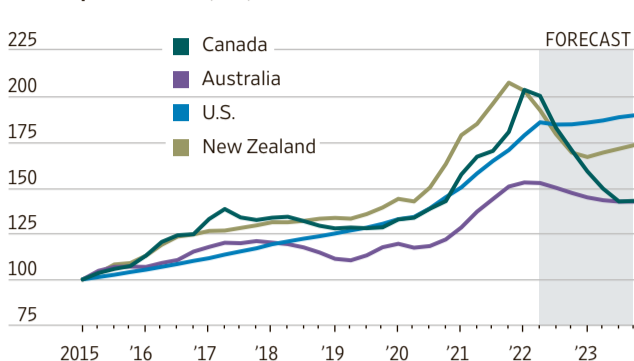
The rising rates are expected to hit homeowners fully in those three countries starting next year. Many home loans in these markets have a fixed-rate period for a few years, so mortgages taken out soon after the pandemic have yet to be reset to more-expensive current rates.

"2023 looks ominous," said Ron Butler, who runs the Canadian mortgage broker Butler Mortgage.

Chris Joye, chief investment officer at Coolabah Capital in Sydney, estimates the city is seeing the biggest monthly falls in house prices since 1983. Using the central bank's house-price forecasting model, he says if interest rates hit 4.25%, house prices could plummet 40%. Money markets are currently pricing in a peak central bank policy rate above 4%, higher than the current 2.85%.

Australia is "a harbinger of what awaits the rest of the world," Mr. Joye said. "The Aussie housing market

House-price indexes, Q2, 2015 = 100



Note: Australia, New Zealand forecasts from 2Q 2022; Canada, U.S. from 3Q, U.S. index seasonally adjusted. Source: Oxford Economics, Haver Analytics

is certain to suffer a record drawdown."

In New Zealand, around 45% of home loans end their fixed-rate period within 12 months, said Kelvin Davidson, chief property economist at the real-estate data firm CoreLogic. Many economists in New Zealand expect interest rates to peak above 5% after recent inflation numbers were higher than expected. That could push one-year fixed-mortgage rates to 7%, which would be unaffordable for many homeowners and could force them to sell rather than refinance.

In Canada, some housing-market participants are worried about so-called trigger points and trigger rates. While many mortgages have variable rates, Canadian lenders often offer fixed payments to keep things predictable, and allocate more or less of the monthly payment toward interest de-

pending on prevailing rates at the time. If rates keep rising, the fixed payment at some point won't be enough to cover all the interest, according to the Canadian financial-information website Ratehub.ca.

Eventually, some borrowers might be required to increase their monthly payments, make a lump-sum payment or convert to a less favorable fixed-rate mortgage, according to Ratehub.ca. All of that threatens to add financial strain to households in coming months, given that Canada's central bank is poised to keep raising rates.

Unlike what happened in the run-up to the financial crisis, large-scale mortgage defaults are improbable this time, according to Oxford Economics. That is partly because many people have amassed savings during the pandemic that will provide a

cushion. Unemployment in all three countries is at multidecade lows. Even if home prices fall some 20% to 30%, that wipes out just a couple of years of gains.

Stress testing of lenders by some central banks suggests house prices would need to fall a long way before threatening financial stability, given that banks have built up large capitalization buffers since the financial crisis.

New Zealand's central bank, for example, recently published bank stress testing and concluded the sector is well placed to withstand a stagflation scenario of high inflation and low or negative economic growth. The banks were even able to withstand a scenario in which house prices fall by 47% from the peak in November 2021, and the unemployment rate jumps to 9.3%.

Even if a crisis isn't in the cards, the outlook for many homeowners is grim. Natalie Bell, a 40-year-old who works in school administration, said monthly mortgage payments on her four-bedroom brick home in a Sydney suburb are expected to rise from about 2,500 Australian dollars, the equivalent of \$1,600, to \$3,600.

"We did take out the mortgage knowing rates would fluctuate, and budgeted for that, but there is always a point where it becomes too much," Ms. Bell said.

ECONOMIC CALENDAR

Tuesday: China's National Bureau of Statistics releases October figures on consumer inflation. **Consumer prices in China** rose 2.8% in September from a year earlier, at a quicker pace than the 2.5% annual pace the prior month.

Wednesday: The Commerce Department releases September figures on **U.S. merchants' wholesale inventories**, which increased in August at a faster pace than in the previous month.

Thursday: The Labor Department releases its October **consumer-price index**, a reading of U.S. inflation that measures what consumers pay for goods and services. Consumer prices rose 8.2% in September from a year earlier, down slightly from 8.3% in August. The core index—which excludes energy and food prices—rose 6.6% in September from a year earlier, the biggest increase since August 1982.

The Labor Department also reports the number of workers' filings for **unemployment benefits** for the week ended Nov. 5. Initial jobless claims have hovered near the 2019 weekly average of around 218,000 in recent weeks.

Friday: The **U.K.'s Office for National Statistics** releases third-quarter gross domestic product and September figures on trade and industrial production. The British economy grew marginally in the second quarter, but is expected to contract in future quarters.

Meanwhile, the University of Michigan releases its preliminary reading of **consumer sentiment** for November. The final October reading showed that consumer sentiment improved slightly from September but remained subdued as households worried about inflation.

U.S. WATCH

LOTTERY

Powerball Jackpot Grows to \$1.9 Billion

A record Powerball jackpot rose to an even larger \$1.9 billion for Monday night's drawing after no one won Saturday.

The \$1.9 billion jackpot is for a winner paid through an annuity over 29 years. Lottery jackpot winners usually prefer a lump sum of cash, which for Monday's drawing would be \$929.1 million.

The odds of winning the jackpot—matching all five white balls and one red Powerball—are 1 in 292.2 million. Powerball is played in 45 states, as well as Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

—Associated Press

GEORGIA

Cyclist Struck by Two Vehicles Dies

Authorities say a man is dead after he was struck by two motorists while riding a bicycle along Georgia road.

One of the drivers fled the scene after hitting the cyclist Saturday morning, the Bibb County Sheriff's Office said. The driver of the second vehicle that also struck the bike rider remained on the scene as emergency responders arrived.

Bibb County Coroner Leon Jones told news outlets the cyclist who died had been identified as 50-year-old Rupert Shane Ward.

—Associated Press

MASSACHUSETTS

Museum Returns Items to Sioux Tribes

About 150 artifacts considered sacred by the Lakota Sioux tribes are being returned to them after being stored at a small Massachusetts museum for more than a century.

Members of the Oglala Sioux and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribes traveled from South Dakota to take custody of the weapons, pipes, moccasins and clothing, including several items thought to have a direct link to the 1890 Wounded Knee Massacre in South Dakota. They had been held by the Founders Museum in Barre, Mass.

"It was always important to me to give them back," said Ann Meilus, president of the board at the Founders Museum.

Wendell Yellow Bull, a descendant of Wounded Knee victim Joseph Horn Cloud, has said the items will be stored at Oglala Lakota College until tribal leaders decide what to do with them.

—Associated Press



Meta went on a hiring spree during the pandemic. It added more than 27,000 employees in 2020 and 2021 combined, and added 15,344 in the first nine months of 2022.

Meta Plans Sweeping Job Cuts

Continued from Page One

"So that means some teams will grow meaningfully, but most other teams will stay flat or shrink over the next year," he said on the company's third-quarter earnings call on Oct. 26. "In aggregate, we expect to end 2023 as either roughly the same size, or even a slightly smaller organization

than we are today."

The Wall Street Journal reported in September that Meta was planning to cut expenses by at least 10% in the coming months, in part through staff reductions.

The cuts expected to be announced this week follow several months of more-targeted staffing reductions in which employees were managed out or saw their roles eliminated. "Realistically, there are probably a bunch of people at the company who shouldn't be here," Mr. Zuckerberg told employees at a companywide meeting at the end of June.

Meta, like other tech giants, went on a hiring spree during

the pandemic as life and business shifted more online. It added more than 27,000 employees in 2020 and 2021 combined, and added 15,344 more in the first nine months of this year—about one-fourth of that in the most recent quarter.

Meta's stock has fallen more than 70% this year. The company has highlighted deteriorating macroeconomic trends, but investors also have been spooked by its spending and threats to the company's core social-media business. Growth for that business in many markets has stalled amid stiff competition from TikTok, and Apple Inc.'s requirement that users opt in to the tracking of

The Facebook parent's stock has fallen more than 70% this year.

their devices has curbed the ability of social-media platforms to target ads.

Last month, investment firm Altimeter Capital said in an open letter to Mr. Zuckerberg that Meta should slash staff and pare back its metaverse ambitions, reflecting the rising discontent among shareholders.

Meta's expenses also have risen sharply, causing its free cash flow to decline by 98% in the most recent quarter. Some of the company's spending stems from heavy investments in the additional computing power and artificial intelligence needed to further develop Reels, Meta's TikTok-like short-form video platform on Instagram, and to target ads with less data.

But much of Meta's ballooning costs stem from Mr. Zuckerberg's commitment to Reality Labs, a division of the company responsible for both virtual and augmented reality

headsets as well as the creation of the metaverse. Mr. Zuckerberg has billed the metaverse as a constellation of interlocking virtual worlds in which people will eventually work, play, live and shop. The effort has cost the company \$15 billion since the beginning of last year.

But despite investing heavily in promoting its virtual-reality platform, Horizon Worlds, users have been largely unimpressed. Last month, the Journal reported that visitors to Horizon Worlds had fallen over the course of the year to well under 200,000 users, about the size of Sioux Falls, S.D.

"I get that a lot of people might disagree with this investment," Mr. Zuckerberg said to analysts on the company's earnings call last month before reaffirming his commitment. "I think people are going to look back on decades from now and talk about the importance of the work that was done here."

Following the call, analysts downgraded their rating of Meta's stock and slashed price targets. "Management's road map & justification for this strategy continue to not resonate with investors," analysts at RBC Capital Markets said in a note last month.

CORRECTIONS & AMPLIFICATIONS

The Oenophile list of Pinot Blancs with the On Wine column in Saturday's Off Duty section incorrectly included an image of a bottle of Albert Boxler's Sylvaner instead of the wine producer's Pinot Blanc.

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



School-Board Races Draw New Attention

By SCOTT CALVERT

URBANA, Md.—Three conservative school board candidates have been knocking on doors and going to parades in Frederick County, Md., in the run-up to the midterms, campaigning with a message that they will curb what they say is the injection of misguided ideas about gender, sexuality and race in classroom instruction in the politically purple region.

The group, calling itself Education Not Indoctrination and backed by a political-action committee pumping money into similar efforts around the U.S., will square off in Tuesday's election against a four-candidate slate supported by teachers unions, in a contest that both sides say carries high stakes for the school district's more than 45,000 students.

The spirited race in central Maryland mirrors a continuing fight for control of the elected bodies that oversee public schools nationwide. Many Republicans running for governor and Congress have highlighted in this year's midterm

elections parental rights and K-12 education issues, book bans and what students can be taught about gender, building on battles dating to school closures earlier in the pandemic.

The nonpartisan election site Ballotpedia is tracking about 500 school-board races around the U.S. in which candidates have highlighted Covid-19 policies, race in education, or sex and gender issues. They include contests in Jefferson County, Ky., Round Rock, Texas, near Austin, and Frederick County, where an influx of residents from the Washington, D.C., region has made Democrats more competitive in an area that elected Republicans for decades.

With four of seven seats on Frederick County's board up for grabs, the three conservatives on the nonpartisan ballot could claim a sizable minority. That would allow its members to shape the board's agenda and possibly stymie the majority's efforts to advance its policy goals, according to candidates on both sides.

"The culture of our school is what's at stake right now,"



Above, Rae Gallagher, running on a slate of Frederick County, Md., school board candidates backed by teachers unions, with Kimberly Kaufman, a voter. Above left is the conservative slate, including Cindy Rose, with leaflets, Olivia Angolia and Nancy Allen.

said Ysela Bravo, a candidate on the union-backed slate.

The Education Not Indoctrination slate is getting support in the form of mailers and text messages sent by the conservative 1776 Project PAC, which says it seeks to abolish critical-race theory in public education. The theory argues that the legacy of white supremacy is entrenched in U.S. laws and institutions. The PAC says it will spend \$1 million this year on school board races, including in Frederick County. The group, based in Shirley, N.Y., according to election filings, says dozens of candidates it backed from Texas to Minnesota have won board seats.

The PAC aims to counter the influence of teachers unions, said Aiden Buzzetti, who oversees its endorsement process. Some Frederick County residents received PAC mailers warning that "progressive activists" want to indoctrinate children. Mr. Buzzetti said he didn't have a breakdown of how much the PAC is spending on the race.

ENI's Cindy Rose, whose 17-year-old son attends a county school, said the slate's over-

arching goal is to ensure that core academics are the priority. Nancy Allen, operations director at a professional membership association, and Olivia Angolia, a small-business manager, teamed up with her on the ENI slate.

Ms. Rose, a retired paralegal, said that if elected she would seek to pause the board's work on an antiracism policy, which has been spurred in part by data showing Black

Covid policies, race in education and sex and gender issues are highlighted.

students are being suspended at disproportionately high rates. She said more research is needed.

Ms. Rose said she would move to pull more than 30 books from school libraries that she said are pornographic or otherwise inappropriate. In addition, she said the board should reject a new state

health education framework. It calls for seventh-graders to be able to identify vaginal, anal and oral sex and the possible effectiveness of condoms at reducing the risk of sexually transmitted infections.

Brad Young, the departing school board president, who backs the Students First slate, said ENI's views don't align with what the majority of parents have said.

He said the antiracism policy is a response to requests from the community, including the local NAACP chapter. The district said parents of elementary-school students will be able to opt out of the new family-life and human-sexuality curriculum, which is being developed. Mr. Young said he expects the board will approve an opt-out for middle-school students as well.

Holly O'Shea, a healthcare executive, voted early for the ENI candidates. She called the district's effort to develop an antiracism policy "virtue-signaling."

Across the U.S., teachers unions have pushed back against what they see as a

threat from conservatives' efforts to gain control of school boards.

The union-backed Students First slate in Frederick County formed partly in response to conservatives entering the race. Rae Gallagher teamed up on the Students First slate with Ms. Bravo, human-resources manager at a nonprofit; Dean Rose, an insurance and financial-services agent not related to Cindy Rose, and Karen Yoho, an incumbent who taught elementary school in Frederick County for 25 years.

The union-endorsed candidates say they see no evidence of critical-race theory in the schools and say their opponents use the term as a catch-all for anything race-related.

Marge Coffey, a retired psychotherapist, said she voted early for the union-backed candidates and thinks they would prevent watered-down history lessons for students, including her grandchild enrolled in a county school.

"I want what they're taught in school to reflect the histories of all of the people who came here," she said.

Florida Prepares For Storm In Atlantic

By JON KAMP

A weather system brewing in the Atlantic Ocean north of Puerto Rico may hit Florida's east coast as a tropical storm or hurricane later this week, the National Hurricane Center said Sunday.

The low-pressure area could become a tropical or subtropical storm by Sunday night or early Monday, the hurricane center said.

The system is forecast to approach parts of the Bahamas and coastal Florida at or near hurricane strength on Wednesday and Thursday, about six weeks after Hurricane Ian made landfall and devastated parts of southwest Florida.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis on Sunday encouraged Floridians to be prepared.

"Hurricane season is apparently not done with us yet," said Mike Brennan, the hurricane center's acting deputy director, during a briefing on Sunday.

The scale of the system is very large, which means it will likely affect a wide area no matter where the center goes, he said. Hurricane-hunter aircraft are expected to fly through the developing system on Monday to further explore its formation.

Forecasts indicate the storm will be significantly weaker than Ian, which slammed into Florida as a powerful Category 4 storm with maximum sustained winds of 150 miles an hour and killed at least 130 people.

"Regardless of development, there is an increasing risk of coastal flooding, tropical-storm-force winds, heavy rainfall, rough surf and beach erosion along much of the southeastern United States coast, the Florida east coast, and portions of the central and northwestern Bahamas," the hurricane center said.



Philadelphia police inspect the scene near Kensington and Allegheny avenues late Saturday after several people got out of a vehicle and fired at least 40 rounds, hitting eight men and a woman.

Shooters Open Fire In Philadelphia, Leaving 9 Wounded

By GINGER ADAMS OTIS

Multiple shooters opened fire on a Philadelphia street Saturday night, wounding nine people, four of them critically, police officials said.

The victims were outside around 10:45 p.m. near Kensington and Allegheny avenues when the gunfire began, according to Deputy Police Commissioner John Stanford.

Several people got out of a black vehicle that was parked nearby and fired at least 40 rounds, Mr. Stanford said at a news conference. The motive wasn't yet known, he said.

"At this point in time, it just looks like these individuals may have spotted someone they wanted to shoot at, exited the vehicle and began firing at the group of individuals that were there," Mr. Stanford said.

The victims, eight men and one woman who range in age from 23 to 40 years old, were transported to a local hospital, police said.

Police said the shooters jumped back into the vehicle and took off. No arrests have been made, and police are searching for suspects while gathering surveillance footage from local businesses, Mr. Stanford said.

Narcotics detectives had

been in the area just prior to the shooting while conducting a separate investigation, he said. "Officers were out in this area. In fact, they heard the gunshots," he said. "But we have some brazen individuals in this city that don't care. They don't care how many police officers are out here. And some of them don't care in terms of how many people are out here."

The shooting occurred close to Harrowgate, a lower-income, racially diverse neighborhood northeast of downtown that has experienced rising violent crime in Philadelphia since the start of the coronavirus pandemic in 2020.

The city had a record 562 homicides last year. Homicides are up 57% so far this year from the same point in 2019, echoing the experience of other U.S. cities, which have also contended with higher violent-crime numbers in recent years.

Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney on Twitter condemned the shooting.

"As I've said countless times, the surge in gun violence that we've seen across the nation, and here in Philadelphia, is simply infuriating," Mr. Kenney said in a statement emailed to The Wall Street Journal.

Singer Aaron Carter Found Dead in Bathtub at Age 34

By GINGER ADAMS OTIS

Aaron Carter, singer and rapper who got his start as an opening act for his big brother before forging a career of his own, was found dead Saturday, according to authorities. He was 34 years old.

Mr. Carter, the younger brother of Backstreet Boys member Nick Carter, was dis-

covered unresponsive in the bathtub of his southern California home, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department said.

A spokeswoman for the sheriff's department said that deputies were dispatched to Mr. Carter's home at approximately 11 a.m. local time after receiving a call from a house sitter about an unresponsive person at his address.

Nick Carter, in a statement on Instagram that included childhood pictures of himself and his brother, said that as adults they had a complicated but loving relationship.

"I will miss my brother more than anyone will ever know," he wrote Sunday. "Sometimes we want to blame someone or something for a loss, but the truth is that addiction and mental illness is

the real villain here."

Aaron Carter had struggled in recent years with substance abuse and mental-health issues. He was open about entering rehab centers for addiction treatment several times.

Mr. Carter, born in 1987 in Tampa, Fla., began performing at age 7. He made his first solo appearance at age 9 when he opened for the Backstreet Boys, and rose to fame in the

late 1990s and early 2000s as a singer and actor.

He performed as an opening act for Britney Spears on her 2000 concert tour, and appeared in "House of Carters," the family's reality-TV series.

Mr. Carter released several albums in his early career, most notably "Aaron's Party" in 2000, which sold some three million copies.

U.S. NEWS

Late McConnell Push Aids GOP Hopefuls

By SIOBHAN HUGHES

WASHINGTON—Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell lost trusted GOP colleagues to retirements, failed to persuade some top choices to run for Senate seats and ended up with some nominees who questioned the 2020 election results or attacked him personally.

But with days to go until the midterm elections Tuesday, the 80-year-old Kentucky lawmaker has helped maneuver a new crop of Republicans into a strong position to win back the Senate, thanks to fundraising prowess that allowed his allies to shore up nominees in competitive races.

McConnell-aligned groups have raised hundreds of millions of dollars this cycle to put to work in close contests, narrowing the Democrats' early fundraising advantage. The rush of donors has improved his chances of running the chamber a second time.

Mr. McConnell also at times

has gone toe-to-toe with other powerful Republicans. He has faced off against former President Donald Trump, who wants him out as party leader as he considers another run for the White House. And he has clashed with Florida Sen. Rick Scott, a Trump ally who leads the Senate Republicans' campaign arm and has weighed challenging Mr. McConnell for his post.

"He's got ice in his veins," said Sen. Kevin Cramer (R., N.D.) of Mr. McConnell. "He doesn't let his personal feelings get in the way of winning elections."

Analysts see the Senate contest as a tossup but with signs of Republican momentum as a result of voters' economic worries, even as Democrats see abortion access as a key issue. The Senate is currently split 50-50. Republicans calculate that if they can keep GOP-held seats in Ohio, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, they have a chance at a majority by flipping Democratic-held seats in states including Nevada and Georgia.

If Republicans win control, they could stop President Bi-

den, a Democrat, from getting his judicial and executive-branch nominees confirmed. They could join House Republicans in oversight investigations, potentially damaging Mr. Biden ahead of the 2024 elections, and gain leverage to set conditions on spending legislation.

"It couldn't be any closer," Mr. McConnell said. "The country is tired of this administration. Voters are dissatisfied with inflation, crime and open borders and if they want a new direction they'll vote for Republicans," he said.

The Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee didn't respond to requests for comment. In the closing days of the campaign, Democrats including Mr. Biden have argued that Republicans will put Social Security and Medicare at risk if they take control of Congress, pointing to proposals floated by some GOP lawmakers. Mr. Biden also warned in a speech that the Trump wing of the Republican Party was trying to subvert the electoral system.

Overall, the Senate Leadership Fund, combined with a sister PAC, One Nation, will raise



Sen. Mitch McConnell

more than \$380 million this cycle, its largest-ever midterm effort, and nearly twice the prior record in 2018, according to One Nation President Steven Law, a former McConnell chief of staff. The fund has become so dominant that in five battleground states, as of Tuesday, the fund along with two sister groups has accounted for more than half of spending by Republican outside groups.

Republicans needed help because they had been lackluster fundraisers. In the nine most

competitive Senate races, not a single Republican outraised his Democratic opponent, based on Federal Election Commission data. As of Friday, the largest gaps were in Georgia, where Democratic Sen. Raphael Warnock has raised \$86 million more than former football star Herschel Walker, and Arizona, where Democratic Sen. Mark Kelly has raised \$70 million more than venture capitalist Blake Masters.

While trying to regain the majority, Mr. McConnell is tugging his party back toward traditional conservatism, rather than the movement led by Mr. Trump, who has falsely claimed election fraud.

"Candidate quality has a lot to do with the outcome," Mr. McConnell fretted during the August recess. His comments about the GOP field were taken as an implicit criticism of Mr. Trump's role during the GOP primaries, in which he endorsed Mr. Masters in Arizona and Republican J.D. Vance in Ohio, who brought an America First approach thought to be risky in a general election. Mr. McConnell also failed to recruit popular sitting GOP governors

to compete in Arizona and New Hampshire.

Mr. Trump has held rallies for candidates, including during the final week of the election, and has funded ads, albeit at a more modest level than the McConnell-aligned groups. He has repeatedly lashed out at Mr. McConnell, who was critical of Mr. Trump's actions regarding the Capitol riot, and has urged Mr. Scott to challenge him for the leadership position.

A spokesman for Mr. Trump didn't respond to a request for comment. Mr. Scott said on a recent New Hampshire radio show that he hasn't decided whether to challenge Mr. McConnell.

Mr. McConnell also worked to shape the Republican field. Unlike Mr. Scott, who stayed out of GOP primaries, the Senate Leadership Fund intervened in Missouri and Alabama to help stop Republicans Eric Greitens and Rep. Mo Brooks (R., Ala.) from winning primaries. Mr. McConnell also publicly dismissed a policy framework from Mr. Scott that called for higher taxes on some households.

Redistricting Becomes Focus in Wisconsin Race

By BEN KESLING

RACINE, Wis.—A longstanding battle over redistricting in Wisconsin has emerged as a leading issue in the gubernatorial race between incumbent Democrat Tony Evers and Republican challenger Tim Michels.

In 2021, Mr. Evers led an initiative to have a nonpartisan commission create new maps of state legislative districts. The effort failed after the state Supreme Court in April picked a map similar to the 2011 version, which had helped Republicans gain majorities in the state Senate and the state Assembly.

Mr. Evers has made the map a key plank of his re-election campaign. The issue got a surge of media attention after social-media posts of audio from a recent Michels campaign event in which the candidate said, "Republicans will never lose another election in Wisconsin after I'm elected governor."

Mr. Evers on Friday released a campaign ad that began with a narrator saying: "Did you know Tim Michels pledged to rig future elections?"

Mr. Michels has repeatedly declined to comment on the remarks and the issue of redistricting. In the past, he pledged to get rid of the bipartisan Wisconsin Elections Commission, which administers and enforces voting rules in the state.

He proposed a "2.0" version of the commission during an August debate, saying that if people had problems with the makeup of such a body, they could go to their congressman. "There's much more direct representation there," Mr. Michels said, according to local media reports on the debate.

The battle for Wisconsin's chief executive, like several others throughout the country, is extremely close, polling shows. The candidates here routinely hit the main national



Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers, top, is in a tight race with his Republican challenger Tim Michels, above.

issues on the stump: crime, inflation and abortion.

But the redistricting issue is uniquely framed in Wisconsin and has played an integral role in the campaign in a state that has been described by John Johnson, a researcher at Marquette University Law School, as "not one moderate state," but "one very conserva-

tive state overlapping another very liberal one."

Redistricting has been a concern since the state's maps were considerably redrawn in 2011 when then-Gov. Scott Walker, a Republican, was in office. Those maps, which Democrats at the time contended favored the GOP, were litigated in state and federal

courts and eventually at the U.S. Supreme Court, which declined to rule on the constitutionality of the maps and sent it back to a district court.

The 2011 maps stayed in place, and Mr. Evers made redistricting an issue in his 2018 campaign for governor. He attempted to put the nonpartisan People's Maps Commission

in charge of redistricting to take the process out of the hands of the Wisconsin Legislature.

"All the statewide officials elected are Democrats," which shows Democrats fare well in elections, Mr. Evers said in late October. But about two-thirds of the members of the state Legislature are Republican—which he described as "clearly gerrymandering."

The protracted battle over redistricting ended earlier this year when the U.S. Supreme Court threw out the map Mr. Evers had backed. The issue was then taken up again by the state Supreme Court, which in April selected the map proposed by Republicans.

Mr. Evers has said he would continue to fight against gerrymandering and warned at a recent rally in Racine that the state wouldn't be the same if Mr. Michels were elected.

Meanwhile, Mr. Michels has made his outsider status as a businessman a top feature of his campaign. He previously ran for Wisconsin state senate in 1998, losing his primary, and ran for U.S. Senate against Russ Feingold in 2004, a race he lost by more than 10 percentage points.

His family's construction company, Michels Corp., has received more than \$1.1 billion from Wisconsin since 2014 for construction projects, according to state records. He has said he would divest himself but has provided few details.

On the campaign trail, Mr. Michels, who has been endorsed by former President Donald Trump, has pledged tax cuts and hammered the issue of crime.

Mr. Michels and his campaign didn't respond to more than a dozen requests for comment for this article.

In recent days, the GOP challenger's campaign has sparred with reporters, and called the police on several journalists when they tried to cover a publicly advertised event.

Manchin Hits Biden Over Coal Remarks

By CATHERINE LUCEY

Sen. Joe Manchin criticized President Biden on Saturday over comments the president made the previous day about moving away from coal plants in favor of wind and solar energy.

"President Biden's comments are not only outrageous and divorced from reality, they ignore the severe economic pain the American people are feeling because of rising energy costs," the West Virginia Democrat said in a statement.

Mr. Manchin called on the president to apologize to coal workers after Mr. Biden said in a speech in California Friday that it was cheaper to generate electricity from wind and solar than from coal and oil and said, "We're going to be shutting these plants down all across America and having wind and solar."

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said in a statement Saturday, "The president's remarks yesterday have been twisted to suggest a meaning that was not intended; he regrets it if anyone hearing these remarks took offense."

In his statement Saturday, Mr. Manchin accused the president of being cavalier about the loss of coal jobs in West Virginia. His anger came in the final days of the midterm campaign.

A moderate Democrat, Mr. Manchin has been a crucial vote for Democrats in the 50-50 Senate.

Ms. Jean-Pierre said Mr. Biden was commenting on America's energy transition and said the administration's goal is to combat climate change and increase energy security by producing clean and efficient American energy.

Candidates Make Their Final Cases

Continued from Page One

The Senate race there between John Fetterman, a Democrat, and Mehmet Oz, a Republican, tightened in recent weeks as questions about Mr. Fetterman's health after a stroke came to the forefront. The FiveThirtyEight average of polls shows the contest essentially tied.

Sen. Rick Scott of Florida, the head of the National Republican Senatorial Committee, said Sunday on NBC that he thought Republicans could win at least 52 seats in the Senate—and said he thought New Hampshire was now winnable. The chamber is currently split evenly at 50-50.

Democrats control the House, Senate and White House. The

party in power typically loses seats in midterm elections.

"People don't like high inflation, high crime, open borders...that's what we're talking about," Mr. Scott said, speaking of Republican candidates.

Charlie Gerow, a longtime Republican political strategist from Pennsylvania, said this year's midterm elections will be most remembered for voters' reaction to inflation hitting 40-year highs. A recent Wall Street Journal poll showed inflation was the No. 1 concern for a plurality of Americans this fall, and Mr. Gerow predicted higher prices would sweep Republicans into power in Washington.

"It's going to be a good day to be a Republican in Pennsylvania and around the country," Mr. Gerow said on Election Day.

The nonpartisan Cook Political Report adjusted on Friday its projection for Senate contests in the direction of Republicans, saying the outcome could vary from no change to a net GOP gain of three seats. In late October, Cook had projected that the elections could

produce anything from a one-seat Democratic gain to a two-seat pickup by Republicans.

On the House side, where Republicans need a net gain of five seats to take the majority, Cook has 35 seats rated as tossups. Democrats are defending 25; the GOP is defending 10.

House Democrats are hoping for upsets but acknowledged that they are playing defense in many districts. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney of New York, the head of the Democratic House campaign arm tasked with keeping the party's House majority, is himself facing a tough re-election effort—a sign of the GOP's momentum in some blue-leaning territories.

"All of the toughest districts are extremely competitive," Mr. Maloney said in an interview. "This election is going to go right down to the wire."

The White House has linked a rise in political violence and intimidation to the falsehoods about the 2020 election pushed by Mr. Trump, a Republican.

Biden, rallying supporters in New York for Democratic Gov.

Kathy Hochul on Sunday, noted that her GOP opponent, Rep. Lee Zeldin, voted against certifying his victory in the 2020 presidential election. "We all know in our bones that our democracy is at risk," Mr. Biden said. The New York governor's race is tighter than expected.

As part of his final pitch to voters, Mr. Biden touted his legislative achievements in office. He cited his signing of the bi-

The weekend attracted heavy hitters on the campaign trail.

partisan infrastructure law, aimed at boosting U.S. semiconductor manufacturing and competitiveness with China, and the climate, healthcare and tax law.

He said Mr. Zeldin voted against those efforts. "My objective when I ran was to build an economy from the bottom

up and the middle out," he said.

Democrats in a final push ahead are seeking to counter criticisms that the party hasn't sufficiently focused on economic issues and inflation, which survey data show are key concerns for voters.

Mr. Trump held a rally Sunday in Florida with Republicans including Sen. Marco Rubio, who is leading in polls against Democratic challenger Rep. Val Demings. "This is a hell of a turnout," he said to Mr. Rubio.

A number of other Republicans took the stage Sunday afternoon—but not the state's most popular political figure, Gov. Ron DeSantis. He wasn't invited and campaigned elsewhere in the state. Mr. DeSantis is seen as the top threat to Mr. Trump in the early maneuvering for the 2024 presidential nomination.

"In order to make our country successful, safe and glorious, I will probably have to do it again. But stay tuned," Mr. Trump said, referring to a third potential run for the White House and echoing a line he had used at other events in recent

days. The remark was met with raucous cheers as people held up red signs that read "AGAIN!" and shouted "four more years." Mr. Trump is expected to announce the launch of his comeback White House campaign by the end of November.

During his Pennsylvania rally Saturday, Mr. Trump referred to the Florida governor as "Ron DeSantimonious." Mr. DeSantis's campaign didn't respond to a request for comment.

Former United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley, another potential GOP presidential contender, campaigned Sunday in Georgia for Herschel Walker, the Republican challenging Democratic Sen. Raphael Warnock.

In battleground Arizona, the GOP candidates for statewide office continued a bus tour in the southern part of the state.

Sen. Mark Kelly of Arizona, a Democrat running for re-election against Republican Blake Masters, held events in Tucson.

—Cameron McWhirter in Atlanta and Amara Omeokwe in Washington contributed to this article.

U.S. NEWS

Indiana Race Will Provide Early Signals

By NATALIE ANDREWS

MERRILLVILLE, Ind.—A House district on the southern shore of Lake Michigan, a working-class region Republicans haven't represented in nearly a century, could offer an early indication Tuesday of how the race for the control of Congress will play out.

The contest between Democratic Rep. Frank Mrvan and Republican Jennifer-Ruth Green is set to be one of the nation's first competitive House races to finish on Election Night, as voting in Indiana's First Congressional District ends at 6 p.m. local time, or 7 p.m. Eastern time.

Republicans say a victory would signal good news for other districts they are targeting in Michigan, Maine and Pennsylvania, where Democrats' hold on blue-collar voters has been slipping. Former President Barack Obama won the Indiana district by 23 points in 2012, and Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton won it by 12 points in 2016, while President Biden won it by

8 percentage points.

Democrats need to hold on to such districts to head off a feared Republican wave in the midterm elections.

"It will be a good indicator early on election night," as to the type of result Republicans will have, said David Wasserman, who ranks House races for the nonpartisan Cook Political Report. Cook has the district as a "tossup," though Mr. Wasserman said he leans toward Mr. Mrvan to win.

Nationally, nonpartisan election analysts favor Republicans to win the House, where they need to pick up a net of five seats to take control. Democrats now lead in the chamber, 220 to 212, with three absences.

Election analysts say the Indiana race is ripe for a strong GOP challenge. It pits a little-known, first-term incumbent whose fundraising has been lackluster against an Indiana Air National Guard officer whose profile as a U.S. Air Force veteran and a Black and Asian woman may better connect with district voters than



The campaign of Democratic Rep. Frank Mrvan, left, has kept a low profile, as Republican Jennifer-Ruth Green has emphasized high costs.



Republican Jennifer-Ruth Green has emphasized high costs.

past GOP candidates.

The district southeast of Chicago is about two-thirds white and nearly one-fifth Black, according to Dave's Redistricting, which tracks congressional districts. Ms. Green said she would like to represent minority voters of both parties in Congress, where there are no Republican Black women.

"As organized labor has declined as a Democratic constituency, the party is reliant on a base of minority voters that might not be big enough to survive a GOP wave in 2022," said Neal Allen, a political-science

professor at Wichita State University.

Mr. Mrvan has support from the United Steelworkers union—important in a district that includes Gary, home to a major steel mill—though many blue-collar workers in recent years have moved toward Republicans and former President Donald Trump. In Congress, Mr. Mrvan, 53 years old, is co-chairman of the more than 100-member Congressional Steel Caucus.

Mr. Mrvan's campaign has chosen to keep a low profile, a concern for national Democrats

who are hoping to hang onto the district as others might slip out of their reach. The campaign didn't respond to requests for comment.

Mr. Mrvan declined requests to debate, according to Ms. Green's campaign. Aside from running ads, Mr. Mrvan has been meeting with supporters, according to his campaign.

His challenger, Ms. Green, 40, is running on a "gas, groceries and grandkids" platform focused on taming high costs and fiscal responsibility.

Knocking on doors in the district recently, Ms. Green was

met with a firm "no" from Randy Webb, a 27-year-old steelworker. "He's with steel," he said of Mr. Mrvan afterward on why he has his vote.

Later, at an evening event backing Ms. Green, 71-year-old retiree Peggy Carter said she was a Democrat but planned to vote for Ms. Green.

"I just don't like the way everything's going, the economy, the inflation, all that," she said at a gathering hosted by Winning for Women, which helps elect Republican women to office. "I think we need a change in everything."

Crypto Firms Boost Campaign Donations Before Midterms

By PAUL KIERNAN

WASHINGTON—The cryptocurrency industry has significantly increased its political spending ahead of the midterm elections, betting that a friendlier Congress will help shield it from a regulatory crackdown.

Crypto firms and their employees have poured \$73 million into the 2022 elections, up from \$13 million in the 2020 cycle, according to research group OpenSecrets, which tracks political donations. The industry also spent \$15 million

on lobbying in the first nine months of this year, more than in the previous eight years combined.

The push comes against a backdrop of depressed cryptocurrency prices and intensifying scrutiny from regulators.

The Securities and Exchange Commission is investigating a number of trading platforms, including Coinbase Global Inc., for operating an unregistered securities exchange, and is litigating a case against Ripple Labs Inc., the backer of a popular token.

The industry's solution: Persuade Congress to change the law.

Amid the lobbying push, members of Congress from both parties have introduced bills that the crypto industry would like passed. One would write exemptions into securities and tax laws for cryptocurrencies. Another would assign oversight of the two largest tokens, bitcoin and ether, to a regulator that would have to write rules from scratch.

"These midterms are the most important elections for

this crypto community," said Hermine Wong, a policy director at Coinbase, the largest U.S. crypto-trading platform.

Crypto's political contributions ahead of the midterms exceeded those of the defense and auto industries combined, according to OpenSecrets. Official campaigns and outside spending groups that received the money have used it to buy television, radio and digital ads, mail pamphlets, and provide yard signs, polling services and text messages.

Trading platform FTX Trad-

ing Ltd. has become the third-largest source of 2022 campaign contributions after Democratic megadonor George Soros's firm and cardboard-box manufacturer Uline.

Via its app, Coinbase has sent push notifications encouraging users to register to vote, and is in the process of rolling out a scorecard that rates U.S. senators and representatives based on their crypto sentiment.

"It's life or death, and so they are accelerating to a level of aggression that is consistent

with the fact that they are in a legal corner," said Jeff Hauser, director of the Revolving Door Project, a group that advocates for less corporate influence on politics.

One crypto-focused group, GMI PAC Inc., has raised \$11.5 million from crypto investors including FTX co-founder Sam Bankman-Fried, stablecoin issuer Circle Internet Financial Inc. and venture-capital firm Andreessen Horowitz. GMI said 15 of the 18 congressional candidates it supported during primary elections won their races.

Shoppers Avoid Big Splurges

Continued from Page One

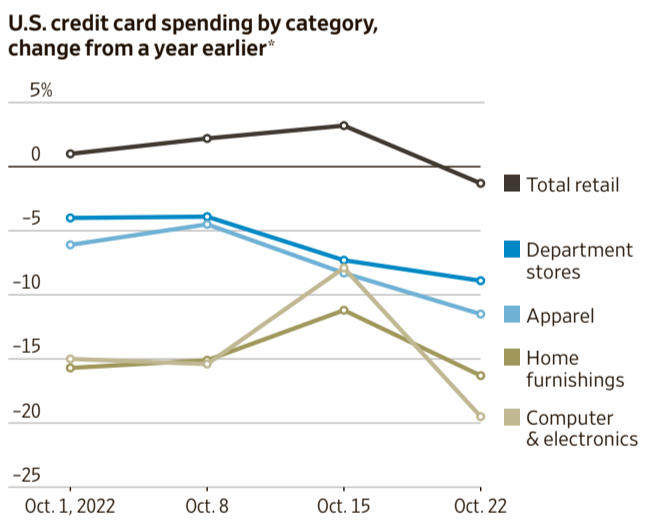
vey of 2,200 U.S. adults by Morning Consult, a research company. With inflation at a four-decade high, consumers have been trading down to less-expensive groceries and other necessities for the better part of this year. Now, with the stock-market plunge of recent months further eroding the wealth of middle- and higher-income households, the penny-pinching is extending to more discretionary purchases.

Holiday retail sales in November and December, excluding spending on cars, gasoline and restaurants, is slated to increase between 6% and 8% from a year ago, after a 13.5% jump last year, according to the National Retail Federation, a trade group. The labor market is strong, and NRF expects some consumers will tap their savings and credit cards to deal with price increases.

U.S. consumers slowed their spending on luxury goods in recent months, according to credit-card data from Mastercard Inc., Citigroup Inc. and BofA Securities Inc. Spending over the summer and into September fell from the same period a year earlier, after posting double-digit percentage gains for most of the past two years.

Thomas Chauvet, who heads Citi's Europe luxury goods equity research, said the slowdown was driven by a deceleration in transaction values, suggesting that even affluent consumers are trading down. According to BofA Securities, middle-income consumers, those making \$50,000 to \$125,000, slowed their spending the most.

Marc Metrick, chief executive of Saks, the online platform of the Saks Fifth Avenue brand, said customers with household incomes of about \$100,000 are still spending but at a slower rate. These customers spent 20% more at Saks in recent months compared with the same period in



2021, but that is down from the 40% increase during the first six months of this year. As a result, Saks is selling fewer wallets, belts and other items bought by entry-level shoppers. "They are the canary in the coal mine for sentiment at that aspirational level," Mr. Metrick said.

Jean-Marc Duplaix, finance chief for Gucci parent Kering SA, told investors in October that entry-level shoppers are buying less. "Among certain categories of products, which

'With the stock market tanking... I've definitely been cutting my expenses.'

are maybe more appealing to a more aspirational clientele, there is some more pressure," he said.

The slowdown has also hit U.S. jeweler Tiffany, according to its parent, LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton SA. "The business in the U.S. is a bit less strong than it used to be," but it is still growing at a double-digit percentage, Jean-Jacques Guiony, LVMH's finance chief, told analysts in early October.

Kering and LVMH executives said some U.S. shoppers shifted spending to Europe given the strength of the U.S. dollar. LVMH said its overall business with U.S. shoppers in the third quarter was similar to the first and second quar-

ters of this year.

Mr. Chauvet said the U.S. slowdown in Citi's data, which started in May, wasn't the result of purchases shifting overseas because it captures spending by U.S. consumers regardless of their location.

Luxury brands have been among the most aggressive in raising prices. HSBC estimated the sector raised prices around 5% since April, on top of an 8% increase starting in September 2021.

David Hampshire, who owns a real-estate investment company, switched from Ralph Lauren button-down shirts to Costco Wholesale Corp.'s Kirkland brand earlier this year. "With the stock market tanking and mortgage rates rising, I've definitely been cutting my expenses," said Mr. Hampshire, who is 55 years old and lives in Freeport, Fla.

Mr. Hampshire recently returned a pair of \$300 noise-canceling headphones and is instead using an old pair that he already owned. He plans to give friends and family \$30 gift cards this holiday season rather than the \$100 cards he doled out last year.

Stacie Krajchir, 54, a publicist who lives in Los Angeles, has stopped buying Natori underwear and now gets her bras and panties at Target. "I don't need a \$110 bra," said Ms. Krajchir. "A \$12 bra is good enough."

She recently returned a \$300 blouse she bought at Nordstrom. "I can buy a blouse, jeans and a dress at Zara, and it still won't add up to \$300," Ms. Krajchir said.

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—Amie Hanbury Suffolk, Virginia

U.S. NEWS

Georgia
Race Is a
Toss-Up

Continued from Page One

2022 election cycle spent more on advertising—about \$72 million—than any other candidate running for office this year, according to data from AdImpact, an advertising tracker.

The Senate Leadership Fund, a GOP super political-action committee run by allies of Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R. Ky.), has responded with about \$40 million for ads this year supporting Mr. Walker.

Yet rather than winning over voters, the advertising bacchanalia has largely generated fatigue and annoyance, according to voters interviewed around the state. Ads for one side or the other parade through TV programs and streaming channels. Radio stations blare endless vote-for-me appeals. Text messages and emails flood phones. Mailboxes are stuffed with fliers.

“We’re all about ready to pull our hair out,” said Jennifer Stephens, 28 years old, of Madison, Ga.

As of Saturday, poll aggregator FiveThirtyEight had each candidate with 46% support. If neither man tops 50% on Tuesday—there is a Libertarian Party candidate in the race—there will be a runoff election next month. If so, Mr. Warnock’s political ad spending could end up the highest for any nonpresidential race in U.S. history.

Ad spending on all political races in Georgia since the start of 2019 totals more than \$1.28 billion, accounting for almost 8% of the U.S. total over that time, an analysis by The Wall Street Journal found. Georgia’s ad spending in that period is second only to California, which has nearly four times the population.

Political strategists said many voters have tuned out the advertising and are keeping to their party camps.

“To be perfectly honest, I don’t pay attention to it,” said Lisa Minor, a teacher and a Democrat from Decatur, Ga.

Tim Phillips, a Republican consultant advising super PACs in the Senate race, said voters have less trust in political parties and news media, reducing their susceptibility to persuasion. “The saturation point has been reached,” he said. “The money doesn’t matter as much.”

Old-fashioned door-knocking might be the best of the last resorts.

“There’s a lot of mailers and digital and TV, and they have less and less impact on what people do, but face-to-face conversation still has a solid impact,” said Friday Guilbert, data director at New Georgia Project Action Fund, a political group affiliated with the left. “That sticks with a voter more than one of the five million ads they’ve seen this week.”

Yet strategists in both parties contend that it makes no sense to abandon attack ads if their rivals continue the heavy spending.

“It’s like unilateral disarmament. You can’t do that,” said Joe Trippi, a longtime Demo-



Above, Democratic Sen. Raphael Warnock, right, campaigning last week with Georgia Sen. Jon Ossoff at the First African Baptist Church in Monroe, Ga. Below, Republican Senate candidate Herschel Walker, center, during a campaign stop in Smyrna, Ga.



cratic Party consultant.

Both parties say victory will likely come down to who can turn out the biggest numbers of loyal supporters, which often turns on traditional outreach such as front-porch appeals and making sure voters have rides to polling places.

Enthusiasm among GOP voters give Republicans an edge in turnout, according to organizers and strategists in both parties.

More than 2.5 million Georgians have cast ballots via early voting, according to the Georgia Secretary of State’s Office, surpassing the previous record for midterm early voting set in 2018. That tally included in-person early voting, which ended Friday, and counted absentee ballots.

Accusations fly

During the campaign, Mr. Walker has been hit by allegations of domestic abuse, including that he threatened to kill his ex-wife, as well as allegations by two women that he paid for abortions. He has said he opposed abortion, even in cases of rape, incest or danger to a mother’s life.

Regarding the claims by his ex-wife, Mr. Walker has said he was suffering from mental illness at the time and had no memory of events she alleged. He has said the abortion alle-

gations weren’t true. Mr. Walker was endorsed by former President Donald Trump, who remains popular in rural areas.

On the campaign trail and in ads, Mr. Warnock has portrayed himself as a reliable Senate vote for such Biden administration priorities as the bipartisan infrastructure law and Covid-19 stimulus bills.

In the final weeks of the campaign, ads from both campaigns have taken a sharper, more negative tone. Pro-

Walker ads have criticized Mr. Warnock over his ex-wife’s charges that he attacked her, which Mr. Warnock denies.

Mr. Warnock for a while largely avoided Mr. Walker’s controversies. In one ad this fall, he showcased a bill related to peanut farmers, a significant industry in Georgia, which showed him getting showered by thousands of peanuts.

A more recent ad from the Warnock campaign was titled “Hypocrite.” In it, a narrator

says: “For you, Herschel Walker wants to ban abortion...But for himself, Herschel Walker paid for an abortion for his then-girlfriend.”

Mr. Walker appears to have withstood the stream of negative publicity. And political advertising, either for or against him, isn’t likely to move the needle, said Mr. Trippi, the Democratic consultant. “The Herschel Walker folks are not going to move,” he said.

The Georgia governor’s race is boosting the state’s ad ma-



A sign to a polling spot for early voting last week in Americus, Ga.

Newbies
Discover
Old Selfies

Continued from Page One
doing something by yourself or with your friends and capturing it with an actual strip of film.”

Dip-and-dunk photo booths are drawing a burst of interest from teenagers and 20-somethings who grew up with phones that snap and store high-quality digital pictures. The retro film strips satisfy a craving for authenticity among young people weary of hyper-edited social media feeds.

This past summer, social-media influencers began trekking to photographer Bryant Eslava’s Los Angeles apartment to memorialize themselves in his film booth. Mr. Eslava developed the idea for his project-turned-viral-series after finding images of celebrities captured by the photo booth in the studio of MTV’s

“Total Request Live,” which aired for a decade beginning in 1998. “The photo booth pictures are so iconic,” Mr. Eslava said. “They feel so timeless.”

Vintage photo booths peaked in popularity in the late 1990s before plummeting as affordable digital cameras and smartphones entered the market, said Jeff Grostern, the third-generation owner of Montreal-based Auto-Photo Canada. He said his 69-year-old company saw a 40% drop

in sales in the five years after the iPhone emerged in 2007.

Visitors to Mr. Eslava’s booth included Zach Jelks, a 22-year-old content creator with more than 6 million followers on TikTok. Primarily known for his comedic videos, Mr. Jelks brought glasses, a hat and other props.

He said it took him four strips to get the hang of the booth’s timing.

“The pictures came out really good,” he said. “It just

made me happy.” Unlike Instagram, where filters can drastically alter one’s appearance, the photo booth “just really captures people’s beauty.”

Inspired by such viral images, others are making expeditions to try out the old-school photo technology. Google searches for “vintage photo booth” in August hit the highest levels in 15 years and have remained elevated, Google Trends data show.

Interest in owning one also has grown, according to Photomatica, the California-based business that installed the booth in Mr. Eslava’s apartment. The company fields a half-dozen inquiries a day, up from just a handful a week, co-owner Matt Dewalt said.

The costly and clunky 800-pound film booths aren’t for everyone. Refurbished models can command \$40,000, Mr. Dewalt said, and require constant upkeep.

Photomatica instructs clients on how to troubleshoot a paper jam, how to change the chemicals and how to tweak the camera settings. “It’s not an iPad,” Mr. Dewalt said. “It’s an actual machine.”

Birdy’s, a dive bar in Brooklyn, has had a film photo booth in the back near the pinball machines since opening in 2015. Co-owner Andrés Simmons said he recently started noticing more “really young people” using it. This summer, the booth began running out of film and chemicals days before the weekly refill from a technician.

Newcomers often are perplexed by how long it takes the mini-darkroom to process pictures, and some customers become convinced the machine is broken. “We’ve had people get mad when the photos don’t come out right away,” Mr. Simmons said.

The quirks appeal to young users. First-timers say the loss of control makes for a special experience—so different from snapping endless shots on phones. Film cameras such as Polaroids also experienced a resurgence in recent years.

“They’re not going to be perfect, and you wait for your image to get printed and accept what it is,” said Vivian Le, a 24-year-old graphic designer who posted a TikTok video highlighting various

nia by millions more. GOP Gov. Brian Kemp narrowly defeated Democrat Stacey Abrams in 2018, and they are competing in a rematch. Mr. Kemp holds a solid average lead of roughly 8 percentage points, according to FiveThirtyEight.

The 2018 gubernatorial race between Mr. Kemp, then the secretary of state, and Ms. Abrams, a former minority leader in the state House, marked the start of Georgia’s campaign-spending spree. Republicans spent about \$30 million and Democrats another \$19 million in that race.

In the Kemp-Abrams rematch, Democrats have outspent Republicans by about \$60 million to \$45 million, the Journal analysis found.

Mr. Kemp won in 2018 by about 55,000 votes out of about 3.9 million cast. Ms. Abrams, who never conceded, came as close as any Democratic candidate in years to winning the seat and showed the new electoral power of voters in the Atlanta metropolitan area.

Less urgency

Mr. Biden became the first Democratic presidential candidate to win the state since 1992, beating Mr. Trump by about 12,000 votes out of five million cast. Mr. Trump and his supporters tried unsuccessfully to persuade Mr. Kemp and Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger to overturn the result.

Democrats in the current campaign season have struggled to find a message to spark that same level of voter excitement, party strategists said. “We’ve definitely seen less urgency, undoubtedly because in 2020 we were faced with another four years of Trump,” said Ranada Robinson, research director for New Georgia Project.

Americans for Prosperity Action, a group on the right that does similar work as New Georgia Project, is going door-to-door with the same message that Republicans have used in political ads races nationwide—that Mr. Biden’s spending in Washington is leading to higher prices in local communities.

Ryan Mahoney, a Georgia Republican strategist, said he expected his party to do well this year, but the eye-popping ad spending isn’t likely to end soon: Shifting demographics have made the Democratic Party too powerful an opponent. “Georgia for the foreseeable future is a battleground state,” he said.

At an early-voting station in Rome, Ga., northwest of Atlanta, John White and his wife, both Republicans, said they were sick of all the campaigning and voted early in part because they had long made up their minds.

Mr. White, said he had received a text message at midnight recently, urging him to vote for Mr. Warnock. The 78-year-old said he has voted Republican for years.

He didn’t vote for Messrs. Kemp and Raffensperger in the GOP primaries, he said, because he believed they didn’t do enough to try to reverse the 2020 presidential election results. But he stuck with them in the midterms. “I had no choice,” he said. “They’re Republicans.”

—Chad Day contributed to this article.



From left, Richie Cohen and Duane Tragis. Zach Jelks, right.



WORLD NEWS

Ukraine Accuses Iran of Training Russians

Kyiv's mayor urges residents to consider leaving as attacks damage energy grid

By Isabel Coles

KYIV, Ukraine—Ukraine said it has evidence of Iranian instructors training Russians to operate drones used to hit civilian targets across the country in attacks so damaging that the capital's mayor urged residents to consider temporarily leaving the city.

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko advised residents to stock up on essentials such as water, charged batteries, food supplies and warm clothing, warning that a total blackout couldn't be ruled out.

"In a bad scenario, if we don't have electricity or water, and if you have relatives or friends in the suburbs of Kyiv who have a separate water supply, a stove and heating, plan to stay there temporarily," he said.

The city administration is preparing to roll out about 1,000 heating points across Kyiv. But Mr. Klitschko said that wouldn't be enough for the three million people currently living in the city, including roughly 350,000 displaced from other parts of the country.

Nearly half a million residents of the capital were left without power on Friday as weeks of attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure took a toll on the grid. Ukraine's electricity-transmission system operator Ukrenergo said it had been forced to impose additional restrictions on Saturday in the form of emergency shutdowns in seven regions, including the capital, after electricity consumption rose in the morning.

Kyiv city council official Roman Tkachuk played down the possibility of a mass evacuation from the capital. "To react correctly, we must have a plan for all eventualities," he said. "There are currently no rea-



People walked on a dark street in the old town of Kyiv on Sunday after weeks of attacks by Moscow on the power infrastructure.

sons to talk about evacuation."

The damage to Ukraine's infrastructure poses a challenge for Kyiv as winter sets in. Life in the capital had regained a semblance of normality in recent months and the economy, while hurting, was stabilizing after the deep crash sparked by the war.

But Russia, after battlefield setbacks, began systematically targeting Ukraine's infrastructure last month using cruise missiles and Iranian-made drones to overwhelm the country's patchwork of air defenses.

Russia aims to wear down the civilian population and undermine support for the war effort, Ukrainian officials say.

Iran acknowledged for the first time on Saturday it had supplied Moscow with drones. Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said a small number of drones had been

Tehran Admits Providing Drones

Iran acknowledged publicly Saturday for the first time that it has supplied drones to Russia, but said the transfer took place before Moscow invaded Ukraine, a claim U.S. officials swiftly disputed.

Ukrainian officials say that Russia has launched more than 300 Iranian drones that have targeted civilian buildings in Kyiv, as well as power plants

and military units in recent weeks. Western officials have said Iran sent the drones to Russia for use in its invasion of Ukraine. Iran, until now, repeatedly denied that it has provided Russia with drones to use in Ukraine.

"We gave Russia a limited number of drones before the war," Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian told reporters in Tehran, according to state media.

U.S. Special Envoy for Iran Robert Malley said Iran's latest explanation of the drones deliv-

eries was untrue. "Iran didn't give a limited number of drones before the war. They transferred dozens just this summer & have military personnel in occupied Ukraine helping Russia use them against Ukrainian civilians. Confronted with evidence, they need a new policy, not a new story," he wrote in a tweet.

Siding with Moscow threatens to deepen Tehran's isolation as Iran's rulers are facing unrest at home and an economy crippled by U.S. sanctions.

—Aresu Egbali

"We shoot down at least 10 Iranian drones every day, and the Iranian regime claims that it allegedly gave little and even before the start of the full-scale invasion," he said. "We know for sure that Ira-

nian instructors taught Russian terrorists how to use drones, and Tehran is generally silent about it."

Eleven Iranian-made drones were downed on Saturday alone, he said. While the per-

centage shot down has increased, Mr. Zelensky said more action was needed to protect the skies. Kyiv's partners have moved to bolster the country's air defenses and recently agreed to set up a mechanism to help repair and protect its infrastructure.

More air-defense systems will arrive by the end of the year, according to Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, who said agreements with several countries had been reached but details couldn't be disclosed.

Mr. Zelensky said on Sunday there were signs Russia is preparing for a fresh onslaught against Ukraine's infrastructure.

On the battlefield, momentum has slowed since Ukrainian forces drove Russian troops out of a swath of territory in the northeast of the country during a surprise offensive in September.

In the south, Ukrainian forces have been pressing on the occupied regional capital of Kherson, but progress is slow because of the open terrain, which provides little cover against Russian artillery fire.

Months of Ukrainian strikes targeting Russian supply lines in the region have loosened Moscow's hold on Kherson, but there are signs it might be preparing to fight for the city.

While preparing fallback positions on the eastern bank of the Dnipro River, Russian forces are also setting up defensive positions northwest of Kherson and deploying newly mobilized forces there, according to the Institute for the Study of War, a think tank in Washington.

Russian-installed authorities in Kherson have ordered residents to retreat to the eastern side of the Dnipro as Ukrainian forces close in. Moscow-installed official Kirill Stremousov said Sunday there was a significant buildup of Ukrainian forces in the area of Davydiv Brid, to the northwest of Kherson city.

—Ann M. Simmons contributed to this article.

Biden, Putin Aides Held Talks

Continued from Page One
clined to comment further. The Kremlin didn't respond to a request for comment.

The White House hasn't publicly acknowledged any calls between Mr. Sullivan and any senior Russian official since March, when he spoke with Mr. Patrushev.

The discussions come as traditional diplomatic contacts between Washington and Moscow have dwindled and Mr. Biden and his aides have hinted he might resort to using nuclear arms to protect Russian territory, as well as gains made in his invasion of Ukraine this year.

Despite its support for Ukraine and punitive measures against Russia for the invasion, the White House has said that maintaining some level of contact with Moscow is imperative for achieving certain mutual national-security interests.

Several U.S. officials said that Mr. Sullivan is known within the administration as pushing for a line of communication with Russia, even as other top policy makers feel that talks in the current diplomatic and military environment wouldn't be fruitful.

Officials didn't provide the precise dates and number of the calls or say whether they had been productive.

Some former U.S. officials said that it was useful for the White House to maintain contact with the Kremlin as U.S.-Russian relations are at their lowest point since the end of the Cold War.

"I think it's always important, especially for nuclear-armed countries, to maintain open channels of communication to help understand what each side is thinking and thereby avoid the possibility of an accidental confrontation or war," said Ivo Daalder, who served as the U.S. ambassador to NATO during the Obama administration. "National-security advisers are the closest conduit to the Oval Office



Russia's Nikolai Patrushev took part in the confidential discussions.

without bringing the president directly into that communication channel."

Mr. Biden, a Democrat, sought to forge a working relationship with Mr. Putin during his first year in office, which culminated in a summit in Geneva in June 2021. Those talks touched on Ukraine, where the sides had clear differences, among an array of other subjects.

By October, however, U.S. intelligence indicated that Russian forces were preparing to invade Ukraine. CIA Director William Burns was sent to Moscow in November 2021 to warn Mr. Putin against an invasion.

Mr. Biden spoke twice with Mr. Putin in December 2021 and again in February 2022 to try to avert a Russian attack while U.S. diplomats engaged with their Russian counterparts.

After Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, however, diplomatic and military contacts between the two sides became infrequent.

Officials said that Mr. Sullivan has taken a leading role in coordinating the Biden administration's policy in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine—something that is expected of the national security adviser. However, he has also been involved in diplomatic efforts, including a visit to Kyiv Friday to speak with President Volodymyr Zelensky and Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov of Ukraine, meetings traditionally handled by the secretaries of state or defense.

Mr. Sullivan also has spoken to Ukraine's leadership, urging them to publicly signal their willingness to resolve the conflict, a U.S. official said.

The U.S. isn't pushing Ukraine to negotiate, the official said, but rather to show allies that it is seeking a resolution to the conflict.

The Washington Post earlier reported efforts by Mr. Sullivan to persuade Ukrainian officials to seek a resolution.

When Mr. Putin and his senior aides hinted in September that Russia might use nuclear weapons if his forces were pushed into a corner, Mr. Sullivan said that the Biden administration had "communicated directly, privately at very high levels to the Kremlin that any use of nuclear weapons will be met with catastrophic consequences for Russia."

The White House had declined to say how that warning was communicated.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and several of his allied counterparts spoke this past month with Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu of Russia as Moscow claimed Kyiv was preparing to use a so-called dirty bomb against it, something Ukrainian and Western officials have denied.

Mr. Ushakov, the foreign-policy adviser to Mr. Putin, has served as an ambassador in Washington and is regarded by former and current U.S. officials as a conduit to the Russian leader.

Mr. Patrushev, who entered the KGB in the 1970s and rose to become director of the Federal Security Service from 1999 to 2008, is regarded by American officials as a hardliner who shares many of Mr. Putin's suspicions about the U.S.

—Nancy A. Youssef contributed to this article.



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WORLD NEWS

West Sees No Choice But to Stick by Kyiv

Putin's escalation has convinced many that there is no prospect for peace talks soon

By LAURENCE NORMAN

Washington and its allies see little prospect of a negotiated end to the war in Ukraine soon given the high stakes for Moscow and Kyiv, and the fact that both sides believe they can win, Western diplomats say.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization and its members say they are determined to keep supplying economic and military assistance to Ukraine as it fights to roll back gains made by Russian forces, and to punish Moscow with sanctions for its attack on its smaller neighbor.

Some U.S. lawmakers, worried about the costs of the war and the possibility of escalation, have pushed for peace talks. Republican legislators have questioned continued funding, and a recent Wall Street Journal poll found that support for Ukraine was waning among Republican voters.

But the U.S. and European governments say the Kremlin is escalating the war, rather than creating any opening for genuine negotiations.

"We welcome [the Ukrainian president's] readiness for a just peace based on respect for Ukraine's territorial integ-

riety, sovereignty, and its legitimate right to defend itself from aggression," foreign ministers from the Group of Seven, a club of large advanced democracies, said in a statement on Friday. "Russia's calls for negotiations are not credible when it continues to escalate the war and issue new threats and disinformation."

With Ukraine taking back Russian-occupied territory and its citizens facing power and water cuts caused by Russian attacks on civilian targets, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky says now isn't the time to pull back and that no durable peace can be made with Mr. Putin.

Mr. Putin says he is open to talks as soon as the U.S. directs Kyiv to negotiate. But given the Russian president's escalation of the war, his proclaimed annexations of Ukrainian territory and his mobilization of more troops for the front, Western governments are making no attempt to force Mr. Zelensky into peace talks.

"There is no very clear vision of what a final peace settlement could look like" in Western capitals, said Piotr Buras, head of the European Council on Foreign Relations' Warsaw office. "I don't think either Berlin or Paris or Washington would push Kyiv now to accept something that Zelensky believes is not in the interests of Ukraine."

Officials say there is the potential for divisions among Western governments, for example if Ukrainian forces further challenge Mr. Putin by seeking to take territory in Crimea, which Russia annexed in 2014. But they say leaders are shelving those questions for now.

In Europe, French President Emmanuel Macron talked recently of Mr. Zelensky eventually having to negotiate peace with Mr. Putin but has insisted that the timing and terms of such a negotiation are for Ukraine to decide.

In Washington, a group of Democratic lawmakers called on the White House to engage in peace talks with the Kremlin over Ukraine before withdrawing their statement. On the other side of the aisle, Republican House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy warned on Oct. 18 that there would be no "blank check" for Mr. Zelensky's government if Republicans retake the House in this week's midterm elections.

Other Republicans have signaled more of a willingness to continue aid to Ukraine.

"I think we have to continue to do everything we can to support Ukraine, who wants to defend their freedom and stop Russia from continuing to expand," said Sen. Rick Scott (R., Fla.) on NBC's "Meet the Press" on Sunday.

Skeptics of the current



German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky last month.

course have failed to set out realistic pathways to a durable peace, calling on Western governments to either slash support for Ukraine or push for a swift cease-fire that could allow Moscow to rearm and relaunch the war in a few months from a position of greater strength.

Olivier Schmitt, a former French official who is now a professor at the Center for War Studies in Denmark, said that as long as both Ukraine and Russia see a plausible path for victory—Ukraine because of its battlefield gains and Russia by hoping that Western publics will turn against the war—there is little prospect of serious negotiations.

In a speech in Moscow last week, Mr. Putin said it was in Washington's power to end the war. "They only need to send a signal to Kyiv to change the attitude and strive for peace talks," he said.

But Mr. Zelensky's interest in negotiations, which took place for a few weeks in the spring, has waned. Addressing leaders of the G-7 in a call on Oct. 11, Mr. Zelensky said, "There can be no dialogue with this leader of Russia," whom he called "an international criminal."

Officials say to the extent Western governments have shifted rhetoric, it is to persuade domestic audiences that

leaders are focused on the goal of a just peace. Diplomats also hope this focus will help keep international diplomatic pressure on Russia at the United Nations and elsewhere.

Yet the fundamental goal remains to keep Ukraine strong enough to make further gains on the battlefield and force the Kremlin into eventual talks on its terms.

Mr. Putin "doesn't share the narrative that he is losing the war," said François Heisbourg, senior adviser for Europe at the International Institute for Strategic Studies. "There is absolutely nothing in what he says which opens the space for any sort of substantive discussion."

Erdogan Seizes Chance to Give Turkey a Global Role

By JARED MALSIN

ISTANBUL—Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is deepening his country's military support for Ukraine while keeping an open line of communication to his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin—a relationship that helped keep Ukrainian grain exports flowing this week—as he tries to expand Turkey's role as a regional power broker.

In recent months, Turkey's most prominent weapons maker, Baykar, has broken ground on a new factory in Kyiv that will double its capacity to produce armed drones. Last month, Turkey delivered a new corvette to the Ukrainian navy in a ceremony attended by Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov and first lady Olena Zelensky. The Milgem-class ship is now the largest in the Ukrainian fleet, which is expanding to challenge Russia's dominance in the Black Sea and showing Turkey's growing influence.

Turkey also supplied the bulletproof vest worn by

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, along with body armor and military vehicles for Ukrainian forces. And when Mr. Putin threatened to reimpose a blockade on Ukraine's grain exports through the Black Sea, Mr. Erdogan interceded to keep the crucial shipments flowing and tamp down a surge in global food prices.

In doing so, Mr. Erdogan is burnishing Turkey's credentials as an important regional player, a task made easier by one key element: his willingness to allow inflows of Russian money into Turkey after Western sanctions cut off Moscow from much of the global economy.

The Turkish president is now one of the few world leaders who regularly speak with Mr. Putin, pledging to increase trade with Russia despite the sanctions imposed after the start of the war and providing an important release valve.

"It's seemingly imperfect, but perfect in terms of advancing Turkey's own interests in the context of the balance it's trying to strike between



President Erdogan, left, with Azerbaijan's president in October.

Russia and Ukraine," said Alper Coskun, the former head of international security at the Turkish Foreign Ministry.

Nor does Ukraine appear to mind too much, as long as Turkey's arms supplies keep flowing. "We understand the situation of Turkey to be a kind of intermediary between us and Russia," said Maj. Gen. Volodymyr Havrylov, Ukraine's deputy defense minister. The war in Ukraine has

thrown up an opportunity for Turkey to advance its growing defense industry while furthering its foreign-policy goals after pursuing a series of proxy wars with Russia in Syria, Libya and the South Caucasus region. Mr. Erdogan has made no secret of his global aspirations, selling Turkish-made drones to 24 countries worldwide, building diplomatic influence in central Asia through a council of Turkic states and

deepening relations with a range of Middle Eastern powers this year in a diplomatic reset.

The centerpiece of Turkey's new military shipments to Ukraine is the delivery of dozens of Bayraktar TB2 drones, which were essential to Ukraine's initial resistance to the Russian invasion, blowing up Russian military convoys and sinking Russian warships.

Baykar's new \$100 million, 30,000-square-meter factory in Ukraine is set to build the full range of the company's drones within about three years, its chief executive said. The factory is expected to double the company's current production capacity, which currently stands at about 200 TB2 drones a year, he said.

News of the construction of the factory hasn't pleased Russian officials, who have threatened to attack the new facility. Baykar CEO Haluk Bayraktar brushed off the threats. "This project is between Ukraine and Turkey. It's not the business of others," he said.

Mr. Bayraktar and his brother, the company's Chief

Technology Officer Selcuk Bayraktar, who is married to one of Mr. Erdogan's daughters, have achieved celebrity status within Turkey because of the drones' success in the war in Ukraine and other conflicts. That success has helped drive a frenzy of new orders from countries all over the world, including from North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies Romania and Poland.

The Ukrainian government has sometimes been annoyed by Turkey's attempts to place itself in the role of power broker.

Ukrainian officials accused Turkey of buying stolen Ukrainian wheat from Russia earlier this year. Turkey said it was investigating the claims.

Kyiv is also keenly aware of how Mr. Erdogan previously expanded military ties with Russia and with Mr. Putin himself, often to the consternation of the U.S. Turkey incurred American sanctions when the Turkish president approved in 2017 the purchase of Russia's S-400 air-defense system.

—Elvan Kivilcim contributed to this article.

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U.S. Says No Evidence Arms Diverted

WASHINGTON—The Biden administration's efforts to check on the billions of dollars of weapons sent to Ukraine, though limited in scope, haven't found any evidence of large-scale malfeasance, U.S. officials say.

By Gordon Lubold,
Nancy A. Youssef and
Vivian Salama

For the past two months, a small team from the Department of Defense has been on the ground inside Ukraine conducting inspections. The group, based at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv, has so far been able to check only a small amount of the more than \$18 billion of arms provided to the Ukrainians, U.S. officials said.

While there have been unverified reports of weaponry falling into the wrong hands or leaving Ukraine, U.S. officials said the Ukrainians have been aggressively tracking American-provided equipment. The lack of extensive U.S. checks is because there has been no evidence that the arms are being diverted, they said.

Those officials said U.S. personnel have only inspected about 10% of the weapons sent to Ukraine.

The Biden administration has been under increasing pressure to ensure that weapons sent to Ukraine are being used as intended, and not sold on the black market, or stolen by



Portable weapons such as Stinger anti-aircraft missiles have historically posed a greater risk of ending up in the wrong hands than larger weapons, U.S. officials said.

Russian forces. Yet the continuing war makes on-site inspections difficult if not impossible.

The U.S. accounts for larger weapons, such as the HIMARS mobile rocket launchers, using electronic surveillance and other "end-use monitoring systems," State Department officials said.

More problematic are smaller, more portable weapons such as Javelin antitank weapons and Stinger anti-aircraft missiles, which have historically posed a greater risk of ending up in the wrong hands, officials said.

The biggest threat of weap-

ons falling into the wrong hands is from pro-Russian forces, who could steal arms from the battlefield, according to a State Department official. Risks also exist for other parties, such as black-market operatives or terrorist groups, to acquire American weapons, experts have said.

While administration officials want to determine that all the weaponry that has been sent to Kyiv is staying in the hands of the Ukrainian military, they have been reluctant to put U.S. personnel in harm's way inside the country or risk escalating the conflict with

Russia by having military forces inside Ukraine performing inspections.

Pentagon officials declined to provide any details about the inspections, or who is conducting them, but did say that none have occurred on the front lines of the conflict. "For operational security and force protection reasons, we won't discuss specific numbers of personnel or inspection locations," said Pentagon press secretary Air Force Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder in a statement Thursday.

The Ukrainian Embassy in Washington didn't respond to a request to comment.

WORLD NEWS

Last 8 Years Were Warmest Recorded

By ERIC MILLER

The last eight years have each been warmer than all years before that period on record, according to a report by the World Meteorological Organization that was released Sunday as the United Nations opened two weeks of climate talks.

The WMO, which is a branch of the U.N., combined multiple scientific studies to compare temperatures since record-keeping began in the late 19th century. The group also reported that the rate of sea-level rise has doubled since satellite measurements began in 1993. European glaciers are expected to suffer a record melt in 2022. Greenland experienced rainfall, rather than snow, for the first time in September.

Melting glaciers and warming water, which expands in volume, have combined to

cost of living, and the energy crisis will come to an end," said Simon Stiell, executive secretary of the U.N. body that oversees climate agreements. "Climate change will only get worse."

The summit, known as the 27th Conference of the Parties, or COP27, will also host leaders of 125 nations Monday and Tuesday. President Biden is scheduled to address the conference Friday.

The push to require industrialized countries to compensate developing nations for what they say are climate-related losses was added Sunday to the official agenda of COP27. The U.S. and European nations are concerned the concept of "loss and damage" will put them on the hook for spiraling liabilities.

The WMO's State of the Global Climate report found that concentrations of the three main greenhouse gases—carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide—reached record highs in 2021. These compounds trap solar radiation and warm the Earth's surface. Higher temperatures are linked to more and increasingly severe droughts, intense rainfall, floods and storms, according to climate scientists working for the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

In the summer of 2022, the Northern Hemisphere had record-breaking heat waves and drought that dried up vital river transportation routes, snarled supply chains and drove up the prices of food and energy from the U.S. to China.

One of the most contentious issues at the U.N. conference will be how to address and pay for extreme weather events, particularly in the developing world.

On Monday, U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres is expected to announce details of a climate early warning system for developing nations that could be ready in the next five years.

U.N. body releases report as world leaders gather for climate summit.

push sea levels higher by 0.4 inch since 2020, according to the organization. Higher seas are causing coastal flooding and greater storm surges and forcing some residents of low-lying islands to relocate, the WMO said in the report.

The report was released to coincide with the annual U.N. climate summit. Representatives of more than 190 nations are gathering in the Egyptian resort town of Sharm El Sheikh for two weeks of talks that have been reshaped by the war in Ukraine and Europe's energy crisis. Russia's decision to cut the flow of natural gas to Europe has forced many countries to burn more coal, boosting their emissions.

"Wars will end. Inflation,



Most of the residents of Gardi Sugdub, part of the San Blas archipelago, will leave the island next year and move to mainland Panama.

Rising Sea Forces Community Off Island

By JOSÉ DE CÓRDOBA

GARDI SUGDUB, Panama—From this tiny, hot and overcrowded island, some 1,200 indigenous Guna people will soon embark on a short but historic exodus.

Next year, most inhabitants of Gardi Sugdub—the name means Crab Island—will leave the cluster of thatched and tin-roofed house where they have lived for more than a century, and head for the Panamanian mainland about a mile away.

These indigenous people will become the first residents in Latin America to be moved pre-emptively by their government from an island whose fate scientists say is to be swallowed by the sea in coming decades due to rising tides caused by climate change.

"When the tide goes up, the water enters some houses and the people have to move their belongings to higher ground," said Pragnaben Mohan, who teaches computer science at the grade school on the island.

The water reaches one of the school's classrooms, so that teachers and students must use rubber boots to get in, she said.

The move is scheduled for late next year. On terra firma, they will exchange their island homes of reed walls and sand floors for modern two-bedroom prefab houses in a new neighborhood of some 300 homes called La Barriada.

Gardi Sugdub is one of 365 islands in the San Blas archipelago, about 39 of which are settled by about 30,000 Guna, members of a fiercely independent people who arrived on the islands more than a century and a half ago from the Colombian and Panamanian mainland, fleeing malaria and yellow fever, according to historians. There are 10 more Guna villages on the mainland.

In the archipelago, sea-level rise has accelerated from about 1 millimeter a year in the 1960s to about 3.5 millimeters annually at present, according to tide-gauge data from the Panama Canal Au-

thority and satellite data from the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Sooner or later, most of the San Blas Islands will be uninhabitable, said Steven Paton, the director of the physical monitoring program at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, a Panama branch of the Washington, D.C.-based Smithsonian Institution.

"Based on current sea-level rise predictions, it is almost certain that within the next 20 years the Guna will have to start leaving these islands and by the end of the century, most will probably have to be abandoned," Mr. Paton said.

The Guna of San Blas have a place to go. They own land on a coastal strip along Panama's coast where the new village is being built with an \$850,000 grant from the Inter-American Development Bank and money from Panama's government, a total cost of about \$13 million.

Over the decades, the Guna dredged the coral reefs around Gardi Sugdub and other is-

lands, enlarging the size of the islands' land mass with coral landfill and building additional homes. But in expanding the islands, they have weakened their defense against rising tides. The coral reef around the islands had been the main natural protection against storm surges, flooding and erosion.

The move to the mainland isn't very popular among the island's older residents, such as the island's saila, or chief, 82-year-old José Davis. Many fear it will lead to the loss of their traditional culture, said José Batista, Panama's deputy housing minister.

Mr. Davis, for one, said he isn't going anywhere. "The saila will always be in command here," he said through an interpreter.

"This is an experiment that we are doing," said Mr. Batista. "We could build the houses, and it could turn into a ghost town if the Guna decide to return to the islands."

—Eric Miller contributed to this article.

War Overshadows Climate Concerns

By SHANE SHIFFLETT

Last year's United Nations climate conference in Glasgow was full of disagreements, but it may be a high-water mark for international cooperation on the issue.

This year, an energy crunch underscored the challenges of a transition to clean energy from fossil fuels. Climate concerns are being overshadowed by the war in Ukraine and related energy shortages; gov-

ernments are worried about an economic downturn and some key alliances have broken down.

Taking place in the Egyptian seaside resort of Sharm El Sheikh, the conference known as COP27 is the 27th U.N. climate gathering and the successor to last year's big event in Glasgow.

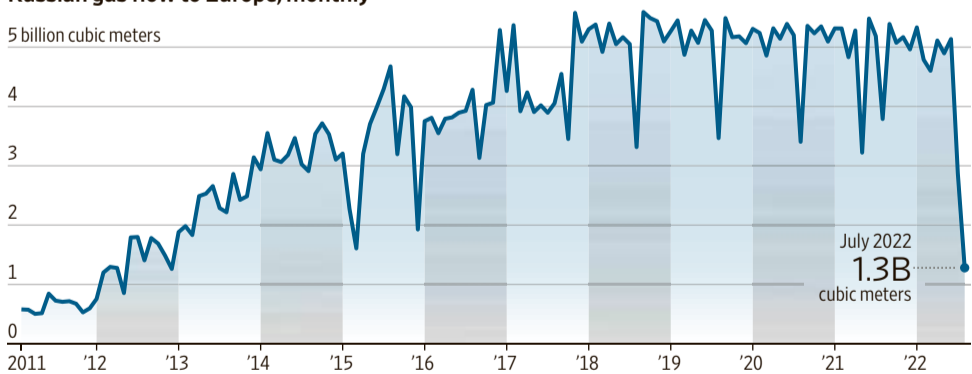
Weighing on every part of the conference is Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which upended global energy markets

and increased the use of fossil fuels, including coal. It also made the case for energy security, which for many countries means renewables.

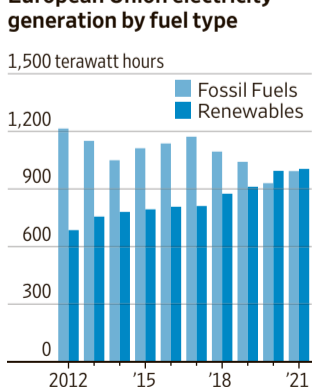
Few believed the transition away from fossil fuels would be easy, smooth or cheap. Russia's invasion of Ukraine made it clear how tough it would be. When Russia cut off gas to Europe, it reversed the long-term decline in coal use. Coal is also rising in countries where demand for power is growing.

An energy crisis and the war in Ukraine threaten to upend international efforts to limit climate change. Russia cut off natural gas flows to Europe, pushing the continent to burn more coal. Greenhouse gas emissions rebounded from their pandemic depression to record levels, with CO₂ from the manufacturing and energy sectors contributing the most to recent increases.

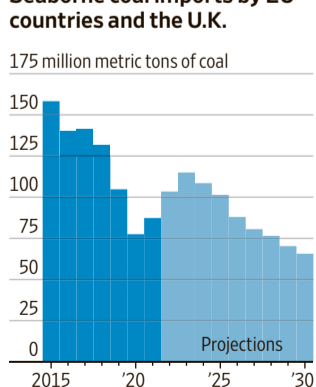
Russian gas flow to Europe, monthly



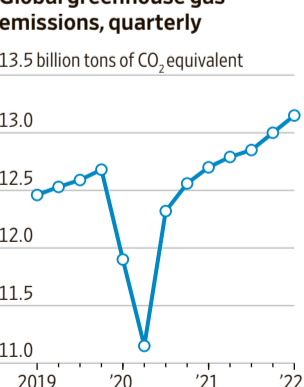
European Union electricity generation by fuel type



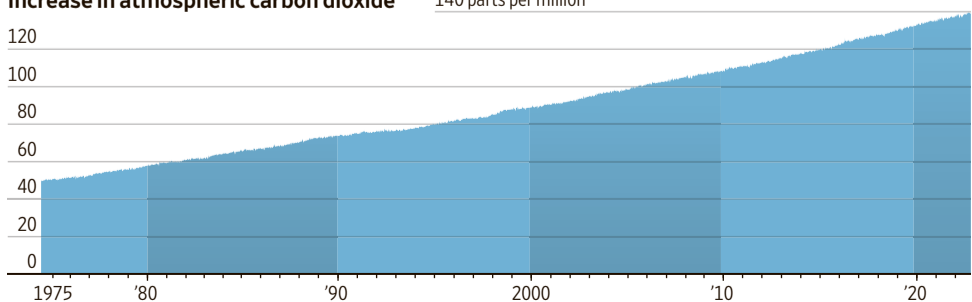
Seaborne coal imports by EU countries and the U.K.



Global greenhouse gas emissions, quarterly



Increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide*



*Measurement relative to 1880 levels. Data through Oct. 16. Sources: International Energy Agency (gas flow); Eurostat (electricity generation); McCloskey by OPIS, a Dow Jones & Co. unit (coal imports); International Monetary Fund Climate Change Indicators Dashboard (gas emissions); National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (carbon dioxide)

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WORLD NEWS

More Migrants Crossing English Channel

British asylum system is overwhelmed by record numbers now arriving in small boats

By DAVID LUHNOW AND JOANNA SUGDEN

LONDON—Britain is grappling with a surge in migrants crossing the English Channel by boat that is overwhelming the country's asylum system and posing a challenge for Conservative Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.

Migrants from Africa have long undertaken perilous sea voyages across the Mediterranean to get to southern Europe. But such trips across the channel, which separates the U.K. from continental Europe, are relatively new and have increased rapidly.

Nearly 40,000 migrants—many crammed in overcrowded small boats—crossed the channel from Jan. 1 to Oct. 31, compared with 28,526 for all of 2021 and 8,404 in 2020, the Defense Ministry says.

Five years ago, the total number of migrants crossing the channel on boats annually was in the low hundreds. Between July 2014 and May 2016, there were only nine confirmed cases of migrants crossing that way, the Home Office said.

Last week, U.K. Home Secretary Suella Braverman described the flow of people, in particular a growing number from Albania, as “an invasion of our southern coast.” She described illegal immigration to the U.K. as out of control and the British asylum system as broken.

Ms. Braverman said many people were coming to the U.K. not because they were fleeing persecution at home but because they were seeking better economic opportunities. “These people are not fleeing wars. They are coming here often having paid thousands of pounds” to smugglers, she said.

Her use of the word “inva-



Migrants were brought to shore in Dungeness, Kent, after being rescued from a small boat in the English Channel last month.

retary, has said most of the Albanian men crossing have links to organized crime and were coming to the U.K. to deal in the illicit-drugs trade.

Albania's prime minister responded, saying what he described as the U.K.'s failed policies were to blame for the situation.

The rise in migration underscores the difficulties for many countries in trying to control their borders, especially since most laws governing asylum make it difficult for countries to turn down those who show up at their border and even harder to send them back, according to some migration experts.

The ruling Conservatives have long promised to control migration into Britain, and regaining control over immigration was one reason some Britons supported leaving the European Union. But since Britain's formal departure from the bloc at the start of 2021, the country has seen more irregular entries than in previous years, according to government figures.

The government of former Prime Minister Boris Johnson passed a law making it illegal to arrive in the U.K. via unofficial channels, and in April announced a plan to deport asylum seekers to Rwanda to await a decision on whether the U.K. would grant them asylum.

Officials had hoped the plan would discourage new arrivals, but it has been bogged down by legal challenges and so far no one has been removed to Rwanda under the program.

Most migrants who make it to the U.K. are eventually allowed to stay, which acts as a draw for other migrants to follow, said David Goodhart, head of immigration at Policy Exchange, a center-right think tank in London.

Currently, U.K. government figures show roughly 76% of asylum requests are eventually granted—a higher figure than in previous years.

—Nick Kostov and Bojan Pancevski contributed to this article.

sion” was criticized by some fellow lawmakers who said the term was unwarranted and came just days after a British man threw several gasoline bombs at a migrant detention center in southern England before killing himself shortly after, police said.

The rise in arrivals has led to a record backlog of roughly 280,000 asylum seekers awaiting either an initial or final decision from the U.K. government on whether they will be allowed to stay.

Asylum shelters are overcrowded and the U.K. government has been putting up thousands of families at hotels—costing the government 5.6 million pounds, equivalent to around \$6.3 million, a day. One Conservative Party lawmaker described conditions at a packed asylum facility as intolerable.

Mr. Sunak told Parliament last week that migration problems were “serious and esca-

lating.” Opposition parties criticized the slow pace of the asylum process. The U.K. has resolved only 2,000 or so of the 50,000 applications for asylum in 2021, according to government figures.

Migrants are taking to boats in part because stepped-up enforcement on the French side has largely prevented smugglers and migrants from using the route into the U.K. favored for decades: hiding in trucks that cross via the underwater Channel Tunnel or on vehicle ferries from the port of Calais.

The new migration route is more dangerous. Last year, 27 migrants drowned when their boat capsized during a storm.

Policing the French shoreline has proved a huge challenge. The French say there are more than a hundred miles of coastline from which small boats can depart. It takes only a few minutes to load a boat and push off, officials say.

Once migrants are in the

sea, French police have a policy of intervening only to help vessels in distress.

Despite the risks, most of the boats make it safely across the relatively narrow sea.

“Now a smuggling industry has been created round the sea route and people see it as tried and tested in a way they wouldn't have a few years ago,” said Madeleine Sumption, the director of the Migration Observatory at the University of Oxford.

Whether or not there are greater overall numbers of migrants entering the U.K. now is difficult to tell, migration analysts said, because migrants who entered in previous years hidden on trucks or those who simply overstayed their visas often evaded detection, whereas the vast majority coming on boats are picked up and registered by U.K. border officials.

But several experts said the current surge was also likely

explained by greater migration overall, including migration caused by political upheaval in places such as Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq and Syria, which is pushing more people to try their luck in Europe. More than 134,000 people applied for asylum in Germany by September, an increase of about 34% compared with the same period last year, according to figures from the German government.

A new development is the rise in Albanian migration to the U.K. In 2021, some 800 Albanians arrived in the U.K. on small boats, whereas just 50 did so in 2020. But so far this year more than 12,000 Albanians have made the crossing, led by professional gangs of human smugglers, according to Home Office figures.

The wave of migration from Albania has led to a war of words between the U.K. and the small Balkan country. Ms. Braverman, the U.K. home sec-

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**WORK
& LIFE**
RACHEL
FEINTZEIG

When Ali Kahlert was diagnosed with a kidney infection last month, she gratefully accepted an IV at urgent care and dutifully swallowed antibiotics as prescribed. It was the last bit of the doctor's orders that threw her for a loop: rest.

"I was starting to climb the walls. I need to do something," says the 30-year-old graduate student in Minneapolis. After one day on the couch—napping, sewing, watching YouTube videos—she'd had it. She climbed the stairs to her home office and tackled some school work and chores, until a stabbing pain of protest came from her kidney.

"The work is looming," she says of why resting feels so hard. "I know that even though I'm sick or I can't do something, the world does not stop for me."

Americans have worn their long work hours and reverence for productivity as a badge of honor for years. Where Europe has siestas and vacations that last all of August, we have working sick days and paid time off that never gets used. This fall, many of us seem to be on overdrive: on the road again for business conferences, dashing from the office to the in-person school play to the happy hour, getting felled by the myriad viruses that have returned with a vengeance.

Maybe we need to take a break.

"The world no longer gives you time to rest. You gotta take it," says Alex Soojung-Kim Pang, who advises companies about implementing four-day workweeks. Pausing will energize you physically and mentally, he says.

If you have flexibility—say, you work from home—he recommends chasing a two-to-four hour block of work with one to two hours of downtime, including a 20- or 90-minute nap.

If, like for so many of us who answer to a boss, that kind of schedule seems a fantasy, you have to protect the time you're off the clock, Dr. Pang says. Try embracing a hobby, something you look forward to, that can occupy your nights and weekends and give you permission to say no to overwork and other draining stuff. The best way to decompress isn't necessarily sitting on the couch with a bag of chips, he adds.

"More cognitively challenging things can often do a better job of taking your mind off work," Dr. Pang says, "so that you're not ruminating about that conversation you had with your boss."

For Tony Metzke, a Lutheran pastor in West Columbia, S.C., hopping on a bike is the thing that gets his brain to finally stop whirring.

"You've got one single focus," he says. "Enjoy this breeze. Feel the ability of your body to move this thing along at 12 to 15 miles per hour."

Every Sunday afternoon, after



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MAGDALINE DAVIS FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (2)

Escape Your Packed Schedule And Take a Rest From Work

Those of us obsessed with productivity are missing out on the benefits of doing less

leading his church in worship, he tries to steal away for an hour on the trails, feeling a sense of calm as the trees whiz by.

"I really think that's what the sabbath is, trying to get away from the busyness," he says.

Alex Dahl, a 26-year old in Norwood, Ohio, has started adopting his own personal sabbath. One day a week, usually Saturday, he reserves for whatever he wants. He takes a trip to a local plant store, plays videogames, watches his fish swim in their tank. He ignores chores and declines family obligations that don't sound like fun.

"I spend so much of my week dedicated to doing things that make me feel stressed out and generally kind of unhappy," he says. "I just needed a day where I'm, like, you know what, screw it. I don't care if the dishes get done."

He knows some might view it as lazy and hedonistic. He suspects his extended family members are annoyed when he turns down offers to get together on Saturdays. He still thinks it is worth it.

"Sometimes the way forward is to stop and to rest and to do nothing," says Christie Aschwanden, a science journalist and author of a



book about the inner-workings of athletic recovery. So many of us are obsessed with turning every moment, even of our down time, into a multitasking display of productivity, she says. We track the exact number of steps and miles and reps we rack up with our fancy watches, fret over personal records and activity streaks. We're missing the point.

"It's during the recovery process that you get fitter, faster, stronger," Ms. Aschwanden says. Lifting the barbell, hitting your 10th mile—those things leave microtears in your muscles, she explains. It's afterward, when your body is at rest, that it repairs the damage and makes you better than before.

'Sometimes the way forward is to stop and to rest and to do nothing,' says one author.

Earlier this year, as Keyana Corliss approached her sixth marathon, she began hunting for advice on how to get faster. She was disturbed to discover the answer seemed to be: run slower, by incorporating specific cool-down and recovery workouts into training.

"I was, like, you've got to be kidding me," says Ms. Corliss, a 37-year-old Denver resident. She'd long prided herself on always going as hard as she could, considering skipped days a waste. Her new

regimen felt painfully slow.

And yet, the injuries that had long plagued her stopped. She ran her fastest time ever at the Chicago marathon and decided to apply the philosophy to her work life, leaving an intense job as the head of public relations for a tech company to spend a few months decompressing by skiing, reading and spending more time with her kids. She'll start a less stressful role at a new firm early next year.

In some seasons of life, the idea of reaching rejuvenation can feel impossible.

"Rest is like something I used to do," says Kevin Haven, who has a 2-year-old, a 3-year-old and a job in the insurance industry. Even as we were chatting, the 38-year-old was looking around his West Hartford, Conn., living room, mentally noting things he felt he should be tidying and tending to.

His time to decompress now comes at 4:30 a.m. He sets an early alarm so he can have an hour alone, downstairs, to enjoy his coffee and read self-help books before the chaos of the day descends.

The time is more energizing than sleep, he assures me. It's peaceful, and quiet, and his.



FROM LEFT: ANTHONY GEATHERS FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL; CHRISTIAN BRIGGERS

WHAT'S YOUR WORKOUT? | JEN MURPHY

At 49, She Just Finished The New York Marathon Faster Than at Age 35

ERICA STANLEY-DOTTIN is proof that we can speed up as we age.

At 48, she crossed the finish line of the Berlin Marathon in September in a time of 2 hours, 52 minutes and 5 seconds. That made her one of a handful of U.S.-born African-American women to run 26.2 miles

in under three hours, as tracked by the National Black Marathoners Association.

Now 49, she had hoped to clock a 2-hour, 48-minute race at the New York City Marathon on Sunday. She ended up finishing in a time of 3 hours and 7 minutes.

When Ms. Stanley-Dottin ran her first marathon in 2008 at age 35, she just wanted to break four hours.

"For years I watched the New York City Marathon pass by my home in Brooklyn and I'd cheer on friends or even join their training runs," she says. "I got inspired to finally run for myself."

She didn't hit her goal, but the former Georgetown University sprinter discovered she hadn't lost her competitive edge. "As soon as I finished, I wanted to try again and get faster," she says.

She took her training to the next level in 2018 when she joined Black Roses, a New York City running club.

Running with younger and faster athletes has helped her speed up. She does acknowledge that more aches come with age, especially after sprints. "My fast-twitch muscles have gotten rusty," she says. For years she could get away with a running-only approach to training. Now she incorporates strength and prehab-type exercises to avoid injuries.

A former freelance event producer, Ms. Stanley-Dottin joined running-apparel company Tracksmith in April as its New York City community manager. The weeks ahead of the New York City Marathon are her busiest—she organized events and workouts for local communities. Moving away from free-lancing affected her training.

"I've been waking up for 6 a.m. runs, and every day is a puzzle to fit in a workout," says Ms. Stanley-Dottin, a mother of sons ages 9 and 11.

This will mark her first year running three marathons, and she says her body is holding up. She com-

pleted the Boston Marathon in April in a time of 3:01:56.

The Workout

Ms. Stanley-Dottin joins three workouts a week with her running club. During peak marathon training, she might average 75 miles a week. That might include track workouts—such as a speed workout of 600-, 400-, 300- and 200-meter intervals—a tempo run and one long weekend run. The two weeks leading up to a marathon she scales back mileage, but not intensity.



Erica Stanley-Dottin ran the Berlin Marathon in September. This is her first year running three marathons.

She always warms up with calf and hamstring stretches and exercises that activate her glutes and hip flexors. Post-workout, Ms. Stanley-Dottin uses a trigger-point foam roller as part of her cool-down. If she's feeling sore, she puts on compression leg sleeves to increase circulation and help with recovery.

Twice a week, she attends a 50-

minute Pilates reformer class. The class strengthens her key running muscles: glutes, abs, hips and hamstrings. She says it has made a major difference in her training.

The Diet

Philosophy: Ms. Stanley-Dottin has dabbled with vegan and vegetarian diets but says her body craves meat protein during training. She is a pescatarian.

Breakfast: Coffee and protein smoothies.

Lunch and dinner: She eats a lot of salads topped with garbanzo beans, brown rice and fish. She makes lunch her main meal and has a light dinner when she gets home from workouts between 8:30 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Snacks: KIND bars, overnight oats, avocados and spoonfuls of nut butter straight from the jar.

Splurge: "Indian food is my naughty food," she says. "I order it a few times the week after a marathon and get samosas and tikka masala with all of the rice and bread."

Essential Gear

Apparel: Ms. Stanley-Dottin says she wore Tracksmith apparel before she joined the company. She's a fan of the brand's Allston tights (\$160), Session short tights (\$90), Brighton Base layer (\$100) and Speed Crew socks (\$30).

Sneakers: Tracksmith Eliot Runner for training (\$200), Nike ZoomX Vaporfly Next% 2 for harder training efforts (\$275) and Nike Air Zoom Alphafly Next% 2 (\$275) for race day.

Watch: Garmin Fenix 6S Pro Solar edition (\$800)

PERSONAL JOURNAL.



PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY
NICOLE NGUYEN

How to Avoid Overpaying For Streaming Services

A few things in life are inevitable: bad weather, taxes and streaming-service price hikes.

Inflation is driving up prices for medical care, airline tickets and housing. But long before inflation was on everyone's lips, Netflix and other streaming-video services were gradually raising prices. They blame ever-increasing production and licensing costs.

Netflix's main plan—high-definition video with two simultaneous streams—was \$8.99 a month in 2014, and now it's \$15.49 a month. The company's competitors, including Disney+, Hulu and Apple TV+, are jacking up prices, too. Even Amazon raised its monthly fees for Prime, which includes streaming video.

What's worse, many of us juggle many services. I can't miss "Succession" on HBO Max or "Severance" on Apple TV+. Among U.S. households that pay for video streaming, nearly 60% have three or more subscriptions and over half pay at least \$20 a month, according to Nielsen. In response to the deluge of options, services are exploring discounted bundles with rivals, which starts sounding a little bit like the cable packages we thought we left behind.

Speaking of cable, the live-TV streaming services—which were already much more expensive because they attempt to replicate a full cable lineup—are raising prices again. Sling TV's basic package has doubled since 2017. Music services, too, have crept up.

If you're not paying attention, these increases can eat away at your budget. But you can save with some strategic subscription tracking, plan switching, service hopping and (legal!) account sharing.

Move to a cheaper tier

If you're willing to endure commercial breaks, you can save by choosing ad-supported plans.

Paramount+, Peacock, Hulu and HBO Max already have them. Netflix on Nov. 3 introduced a \$6.99-a-month tier with ads, \$3 less than its basic membership. The company said customers can expect



four to five minutes of ads an hour on average. Kids' profiles won't see advertising.

Disney+'s \$7.99-a-month plan with ads will be available on Dec. 8, when its ad-free tier increases to \$10.99. The company promised to keep interruptions down to four minutes each hour and said children who use their own profile won't see ads.

Play musical chairs

While annual subscriptions typically come with discounts, going month-to-month offers more flexibility. Once the "House of the Dragon" run ends on HBO Max, you can cancel that plan, then sign up for Apple TV+ in time for a new season of "Ted Lasso."

When you sign up for a service and all the episodes you want are available, unsubscribe right away and start binge-watching. If it's not a free trial, most allow you to

Be on the lookout for price increases from Apple, Disney, Netflix and plenty of others.

stream until the end of the billing cycle. (One exception is Amazon Prime, which ends the day you cancel.)

Share logins and split the bill

Family plans offer a discounted group rate that gets cheaper when divided by more people. They generally let you split a subscription between four to six people, and allow multiple devices to stream content simultaneously.

Many services—including Netflix, Hulu, Spotify, Disney+, Sling and HBO Max—stipulate that plan-

sharers need to live at the same address. Others, however, don't.

Amazon Prime and all of its shipping and content benefits—starting at \$14.99 a month or \$139 annually—can be shared by two adults who don't live under the same roof. And Apple One, a bundle of services including Apple Music, TV+ and more, can be split among six people who live in the same country, for plans starting at \$22.95 a month.

Account moochers' days might be numbered. In March, Netflix rolled out fees for extra users to crack down on password sharing in some countries in Latin America, and said it might launch a similar system in the U.S. next year.

If you're sharing services with friends, the Fuse bill-splitting app can simplify the transaction. When you add your group's Fuse-assigned debit-card number to a subscription, the company automatically

deducts everyone's shares from their linked bank accounts.

Track down recurring costs

Comb through your credit-card statements and app-store settings for hidden subscriptions you aren't using. I discovered I've been paying for an old password manager for two years—even though I use a different service!

It's especially easy to miss app subscriptions. iPhone users: Open Settings, tap your name, then Subscriptions. Android users: Go to the Play Store, tap your profile picture, then Payment & subscriptions. You might have also signed up for premium channels through other platforms. Check Memberships and Subscriptions in your Amazon account settings.

Apps can also help track recurring costs automatically, but you have to be comfortable with sharing financial-account credentials with third parties.

Rocket Money, formerly Truebill, is an iPhone and Android money-manager app that's particularly good at sifting through bank and credit-card statements. Rocket Money's free version offers plenty, though its premium plan (yes, another subscription) starts at \$3 a month.

Check out free options

Just a casual watcher or listener? There are many free streaming options for video and music.

You can listen to Spotify free with commercials every few songs. You can't play specific songs on demand. You have to shuffle playlists or albums of your choosing and can't skip more than six tracks an hour. Amazon recently expanded its Prime Music catalog, included with a Prime membership, to 100 million songs. But a similar shuffle-only catch applies. On-demand play requires an extra \$8.99 a month.

For free movies and TV shows, Amazon's Freevee, Paramount's Pluto TV, Fox Entertainment's Tubi and the Roku Channel have intermittent ad breaks. To avoid ads, try services such as Kanopy and Hoopla, which require a membership at a participating local library.

You might be surprised by how much content is available without a paid subscription. Check Reelgood, a video-search engine with a handy filter for free offerings. If you enjoy a good rerun or a cinema classic, there's plenty for you—without the creeping prices.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CHAYLA HOWELL/THE WALL STREET JOURNAL; ISTOCK

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Dominick Infante bought his 1972 Jensen Interceptor III in an online auction in 2019.

MY RIDE | A.J. BAIME

He Bought a Rare British Sports Car While Sitting in California Traffic

Dominick Infante, 57, of Wynnewood, Pa., director of corporate communications at Subaru of America, on his 1972 Jensen Interceptor III, as told to A.J. Baime.

Let me tell you how *not* to buy a car. In 2019, I was driving from Ojai, Calif., to Santa Barbara on a heavily trafficked road with construction while trying to bid on a car in an online auction on my phone. I would come to a construction stop, check my phone and sometimes I would get reception. I was bidding on a Jensen Interceptor. Normally, you would have someone check out the car to make sure it was in good shape. Not this time. This would be an impulse buy—if I could win the auction.

At one point, I came to a stop, checked my phone and hoped for reception. That's when I learned the car was mine. The price was roughly what a basic new midsize sedan might cost.

I have a small collection of old English cars, and none of them are going up in value. The Jensen is different from the others. Most Americans have never heard of the Jensen Interceptor. I

had read so much about it, and the Interceptor always looked so cool to me.

Jensen Motors was a British company that made body panels for other British cars. They also made a small number of their own vehicles. The Interceptor's body was designed by the Italian coach-



The 1972 Jensen Interceptor's 440-cubic-inch Chrysler-built motor. Mr. Infante named his car the Red Dragon.

building firm Carrozzeria Touring. At the time, people called the Interceptor a hybrid—long before today's hybrids existed—because it was a British car with an Italian-designed body and they used an American engine.

Jensen made about 6,000 Interceptors over about 10 years. For some reason, the car was popular among famous musicians. John Bonham of Led Zeppelin and

Ginger Baker of Cream—two of the greatest drummers who ever lived—both had Interceptors.

One of the things I loved about this particular example was that the previous owner had done a lot of custom work. It had a 440-cubic-inch Chrysler-built engine of about 500 horsepower, a six-speed transmission and other modifications.

After winning the auction, I picked up the car in Orange, Calif. I drove it to Los Angeles to meet some friends and it immediately overheated. Clearly, it was going to take a while to figure everything out. The car had exhaust pipes as big and loud as howitzers. I named it the Red Dragon because of its paint and its noise.

Over the last three-plus years, I have driven it a lot. It was built for comfortable long-distance cruising, so it goes well on the highway. It is fast, and drives like a limousine with a Nascar engine. You can see Interceptors in England, but in the U.S.? No one knows what it is.

Impulse buys sometimes go right, and sometimes wrong. My Interceptor has turned out to be a gem.

ELKIN JARAMILLO FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (2)

ARTS IN REVIEW

By MICHAEL J. LEWIS

The Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa, Calif., an hour's drive from Los Angeles, is a crowded stage with every building wanting to play the lead.

Its two theaters and concert hall are each in a different style and of different materials, with none of the formal unity that distinguishes, for example, New York's Lincoln Center. Now the Orange County Museum of Art, the \$93 million, 53,000-square-foot building that opened last month, joins the cast.

The natural response, when we enter a room of loudmouths, is to shout louder. And at first blush OCMA does just that. Its principal facade is a restless and fragmented thing, thrusting a windowless, boxy volume into the air at one end, then falling back to make a wide public stair, only to rise up again at the other end into a blocky, towered mass, also windowless except for an aperture in the middle. The sense is of a pierced carapace.

All this is characteristic of the work of its architect, Thom Mayne, winner of the Pritzker Prize, and his Los Angeles firm, Morphosis, with Brandon Welling the partner in charge. Here is the familiar design strategy of establishing a formal order only to disrupt it, splintering it with unexpected openings that are neither wounds nor orifices but fall distressingly in between. But what seems to be another self-indulgent exercise in mere form-making is nothing of the sort. For once, the principal concern was a generous one, to create humane public space.

Mr. Mayne told me, with some chagrin, of having spent his entire career "in the slipstream of Frank Gehry," his more famous California competitor and fellow Pritzker Prize recipient. And the typical Gehry building is the stand-alone sculptural icon, aloof and self-in-



Exterior, left, and interior, below left, of the Orange County Museum of Art

ARCHITECTURE REVIEW

Building Without Boundaries

The Orange County Museum of Art's new structure has a generous goal: humane public space

involved, as are the other objects of the Segerstrom Center. But Mr. Mayne, having built a great deal in China, spoke with approval of how the new Chinese cities treat buildings, infrastructure and public space not as separate operations but as an integrated design problem. In that spirit, he did not want

to crowd the Segerstrom Center's shrinking public space with yet another totem. Instead, he dissolved the conventional boundary between building and site, bringing the plaza into the museum with a broad, welcoming stair and spacious roof terrace that take up a full 70% of its footprint.

Further opening up the building into the plaza is the treatment of the wall, which is clad in white panels of glazed terra cotta with an attractive channeled surface. They show the even courses and offset joints of a solid masonry wall, but they behave more like fabric. The wall unfurls across the building like a playful ribbon, sometimes stiffening into flatness and sometimes seemingly flapping in the breeze. But it does not touch the ground, lifting up its skirt, so to speak, to reveal its angled columns and an all-glass lower story. Here again the goal is unconstrained continuity between interior and exterior.

You enter into a rotunda where the terra-cotta wall gathers into a kind of spatial whirlpool, as if trying to wrap itself into a sarong. You peer up through three levels of bridges—or, rather, glass-bottomed catwalks—that run in slightly different directions. It is like the vista of one of Piranesi's "Carceri," his engravings of imaginary labyrinthine prisons (or, given the location, like a particularly tangled freeway overpass). The sense is of being at the bottom of a silo spinning rapidly. It is a thrilling overture to the art that lies beyond.

Next come the galleries, which take up the whole southern end of the building. They are open and flexible, nearly 25,000 square feet of the customary white-box gallery space. After the ecstasy of the rotunda they are rather prim. The architects speak of the building's "gradient of architectural inten-

California and you might as well be underground.

As they say in sports, sometimes you have to "take one for the team" and make a sacrifice for the greater good. By carrying the outdoor plaza onto the roof of their museum, Morphosis sacrificed the character of the galleries inside. One can lament the consequences while admiring the idealism. And this is a remarkably idealistic institution, as shown by the decision of its director, Heidi Zuckerman, to charge no admission for the next 10 years, a bold stroke that welcomes the community but also tells future donors (and Orange County is a wealthy county) that their bequests will be viewed, and appreciated.

But what a comedown. The frenetic carnival of the facade tells us to dance, and the roomy box store of the gallery tells us—to shop?

Mr. Lewis teaches architectural history at Williams and reviews architecture for the Journal.

The plaza is brought into the museum with a welcoming stair and spacious roof terrace.

sity," which is a kind way of saying that it gets less interesting the farther in you go. It is as bland and featureless as a big-box store and in terms of circulation a spatial dead end. Worst of all, because they sit beneath the roof terrace, the galleries have no natural light. Here you are in sunny Southern



ART REVIEW

A Dim Debut in Orange County

By PETER PLAGENS

COVID-19 IS PARTLY to blame, because it landed squarely on the exhibition-planning stages of the architecturally new Orange County Museum of Art. The institution's comparatively brief and somewhat fraught history probably had something to do with it, too—"it" being a confusing and mildly disappointing slate of opening exhibitions.

OCMA began in 1962 as a *kunst-halle*—a noncollecting institution—launched in the Balboa Pavilion by 13 local women who were art patrons. Six years later, it pronounced itself the slightly greater-sounding Newport Harbor Art Museum—which might have smacked too much of a yachting club—and about three decades later changed its name to the more neutral Orange County Museum of Art. Along the way, the museum has had its share of kerfuffles, one involving a who-owns-what-art dispute with the near-neighbor Laguna Art Museum, another the firing of an excellent curator in Dan Cameron in 2015. Current director Heidi Zuckerman has been in charge for a little less than two years, and chief curator Courtenay Finn has been on the job for about half that time. Not the best of circumstances for a big debut.

The museum has, nevertheless, a solid collection of about 4,500 works of art—including some by California stalwarts Richard Die-

benkorn, Robert Irwin and Ed Ruscha—and a nice new home for them. With the architecture of its new digs, designed by Thom Mayne, obviously the headliner, OCMA might have shown off its collection as the main exhibition, with perhaps a tangy traveling topical show as an enlivener. Instead, it went with staging a new edition of one of the institution's heretofore well-regarded series, the "California Biennial"; putting on a rotating homage ("13 Women") to its Balboa founders; stuffing a retrospective of sculptor Fred Eversley into a second-floor

The opening exhibitions reveal a revamped institution that has yet to hit its stride.

gallery with a gift-shop ambience; and commissioning a large outdoor piece by Sanford Biggers.

The Biennial, born in 1984 as a survey of up-to-the-moment California art, is titled "Pacific Gold" this time around and includes 60 works by 19 artists chosen by—presumably because the museum didn't yet have its curatorial feet on the ground—a guest triumvirate. It's hard to tell, however, where in OCMA's spacious galleries the Biennial ends and other

shows begin. That's not only due to the watery boundaries among exhibitions, but also because most of the work in the Biennial is aesthetically thin. There are, nevertheless, also some gems. Among them are "Extraño 9" (2020), an easily elegant combination of hanging rope and flax, by Tanya Aguiñiga (b. 1978); "Naufragios" (2022), a big, hilariously tragic painting of the European "discovery" of America, by the septuagenarian Raul Guerrero; and my personal favorite—a truly witty work—"Coyota" (2020), a huge folkly surrealist wall-relief portrayal of the animal by Hector Dionicio Mendoza (b. 1969).

As for "13 Women"—which will feature a changing roster of art over the course of a year chosen by Ms. Zuckerman from OCMA's permanent collection—it's a grab bag to be sure, but it does display, among the 29 works on view, some art we all should be glad to see. Among them are a mechanically impressive super-loom, "From the Series: How to Catch and Manufacture Ghosts" (1980), by Alice Aycock (b. 1946); a soft wall-hanging from 2013 made from a silk blouse, beads and feathers, by Sarah Cain (b. 1979), that is sneakily titled "women & power"; and a wonderful, friendly feminist painting, "The Journey #5" (1976), by Joan Brown (1938-1990). As if to demonstrate unnecessarily that OCMA isn't reverse-sexist, "13 Women" also includes examples by men—



'From the Series: How to Catch and Manufacture Ghosts' (1980), by Alice Aycock, a mechanically impressive loom from the permanent collection

among them a reliably impressive "Ocean Park" painting (1970) by Diebenkorn and art by Charles Ray and Glenn Ligon.

"Fred Eversley: Reflecting Back (the World)," organized by Ms. Finn, is an unfortunate near-miss. Mr. Eversley (b. 1941) is one of Southern California's two most adroit casters of polyester resin (the other being DeWain Valentine), and any display of nearly three-dozen of his almost too elegant sculptures is bound to be stunning. "Reflecting Back (the World)" is certainly that, but the exhibition takes place in a gallery that seems cramped compared to OCMA's overall generous space. It feels, alas, like a salesroom.

Finally, "Of Many Waters . . ." (2022), the sculpture by Mr. Biggers (b. 1970), is a qualitative toss-up. On the one hand, it's visually arresting, positioned as it is on a roof, black against OCMA's architectural whiteness, and one of the first works you see on approaching the museum's entrance. "Of Many

Waters . . ." also alludes to both a figure from the Parthenon frieze and, perhaps, a reclining god from a neoclassical painting (who is wearing what could be an African mask). On the other, it's flat and the structure that props it up weakens the art-historical references. The presence of oversize sequins tries to add a knowing wink at the inevitable pretense of a really large sculpture, but it's too little modesty, too late.

OCMA will surely hit its stride once the curatorial duo settles in and viewers are used to the new edifice and can put it in the background. Given the obvious but nearly unspoken competition among the new OCMA, the redone Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, and whatever the L.A. County Museum of Art manages to salvage from its architectural re-birth, that should come reasonably soon.

Mr. Plagens is an artist and writer in Connecticut.

SPORTS

Kenyans Win New York Marathon

By Rachel Bachman

Kenya's Evans Chebet followed his Boston Marathon victory earlier this year by winning the New York City Marathon on Sunday, holding on as other front-runners dropped out on an unusually warm, humid day.

The 33-year-old Chebet finished in 2 hours, eight minutes and 41 seconds as temperatures topped 70 degrees and humidity approached 80%. Many marathoners prefer temperatures 20 degrees below that or lower.

Kenya's Sharon Lokedi, making her marathon debut on Sunday, won the women's division in 2 hours, 23 minutes and 23 seconds.

Daniel Do Nascimento, a 24-year-old Brazilian, set a blistering pace, taking a 1 minute, 40-second lead about 9 miles into the race, running close to world-record pace at that point.

He ducked into a portable toilet after the halfway mark, then retook the course, still with more than a two-minute lead. But after the 20-mile mark, Do Nascimento slowed down, walked a few steps then collapsed onto the pavement.

As officials tended to Do Nascimento, Chebet ran past. Chebet has now finished first or second in 12 marathons. Sunday was his first New York City Marathon. Do Nascimento was doing well enough that he wasn't taken to a hospital, race officials said.

Galen Rupp, a 36-year-old two-time Olympic medalist from Portland, Ore., was perhaps the biggest-name American in Sunday's race, his first New York City Marathon. He dropped out after the halfway mark. Rupp had suffered from a back injury in recent months.

The top-finishing Americans were Aliphine Tulumak in seventh place in the women's race and Scott Fauble in ninth place in the men's race. Lonah Chemtai Salpeter finished second in the women's race to become the first Israeli athlete to reach the podium in New York.



Sharon Lokedi won the women's race.



Houston Astros rookie shortstop and World Series MVP Jeremy Peña celebrates with the trophy. Peña was also the most valuable player of the ALCS.

The Unsinkable Ship in Houston

The Astros played through the tumultuous aftermath of their 2017 title—and may not be done

By Lindsey Adler

Houston

The Houston Astros may never be able to outrun their past, no matter how many World Series titles they pile up. But whatever baseball fans think of them, one thing is clear: They are built to keep winning.

The 2022 championship that Houston won late Saturday, beating Philadelphia in six games, creates a bridge between two eras of Astros baseball that now form one very long window in which they have been a legitimate title contender.

That window opened in earnest with their first World Series win in 2017—when the Astros started bearing the fruit of the years in which they perfected the art of tanking for a few years to build a roster for the future. Five years later, their window of contention has remained open despite a cheating scandal that led to the ouster of the general manager and field manager, roster turnover, and competition within the American League.

They earned a championship in 2017 with one team, and followed it up in 2022 with another. Opposing fans have reliably used the words "merciless" and "cheaters" to describe the Astros in recent years. Whether the concept of "dy-

nasty" applies now, the reality is they have become "unavoidable." Their critics wanted them to become irrelevant. Instead, they've become inevitable.

"I was drafted in 2017, and I thought that maybe by the time I made it to the big leagues, the window would have closed," said center fielder Chas McCormick, who made his MLB debut in 2021. "This team's a dynasty, and this window isn't closing anytime soon."

The Astros became the sport's most universally hated team after the revelation of the illegal sign-stealing scandal they used in 2017 and 2018. The league's decision to give players immunity and only punish members of management for the disgrace meant that the only catharsis for those who hate them would be in the experience of watching them fail. Instead, commissioner Rob Manfred lifted the World Series trophy on Saturday night in Houston and handed it to Astros owner Jim Crane once again.

"A lot of times in today's game, it's build up, build up, build up, make a run and win—or don't—then tear it down," said starter Lance McCullers Jr., one of five players who won in 2017 and 2022. "We've been able to sustain it and we've had a lot of smart people

here making a lot of great decisions for you for a long time."

The decision makers who built the 2017 team and the foundation for the 2022 Astros roster have mostly left the organization now, the most notable being general manager Jeff Luhnow, who has not returned to baseball since serving a one-year suspension following the revelation of the sign-stealing scheme. There are influential former Astros in front offices from

There may not be much significant turnover from the 2022 Astros roster to the 2023 Astros roster.

Baltimore to Miami to Atlanta and San Francisco. The Astros' first order of business following their World Series win will be dealing with the expiring contracts for general manager James Click and manager Dusty Baker.

"We'll visit on that Monday," Crane said after his team's Game 6 victory on Saturday.

Click and Baker were tasked with guiding the team through the early fallout of the cheating scandal, and

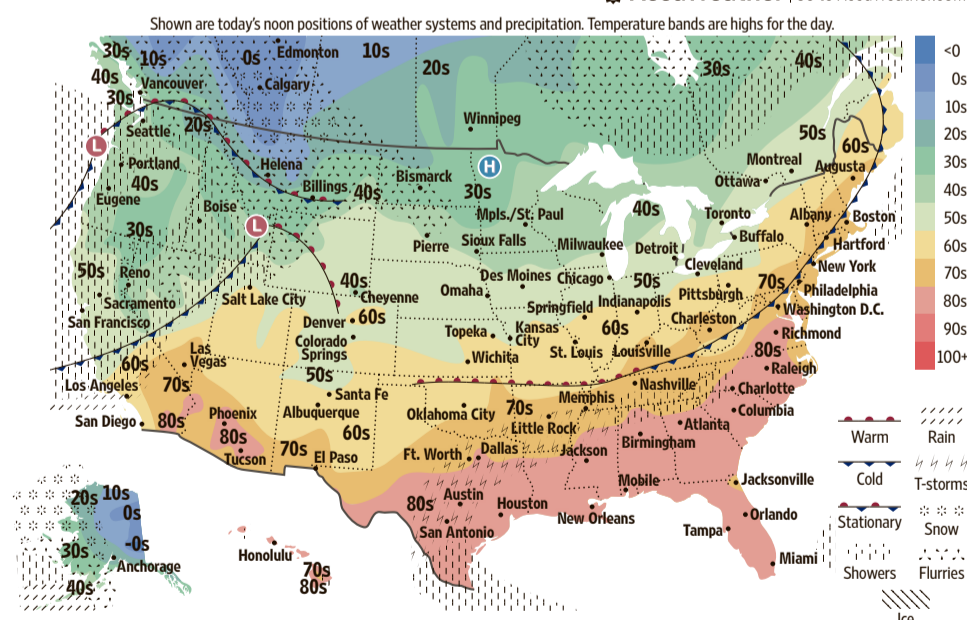
reached the World Series twice in the span of three seasons. Click said Saturday night that his front office had already begun the process of working on their 2023 roster, despite his uncertain status and the postseason run.

In reality, there may not be much significant turnover from the 2022 Astros roster to the 2023 Astros roster. Eight players were in the Astros starting lineup for at least 10 of their 13 postseason games this year, and just two of them weren't originally signed or drafted by the organization. Left fielder Yordan Alvarez was acquired via a trade with the Dodgers, and catcher Martin Maldonado has had two stints in Houston via trades and free agency.

Eleven players could become free agents this winter, but a few, like Justin Verlander, have various options that could lead to them staying. Second baseman Jose Altuve and third baseman Alex Bregman are under contract through 2024. Alvarez is under team control until 2029, McCormick and rookie shortstop Jeremy Peña are years away from even reaching arbitration. Right fielder Kyle Tucker, along with a number of starters including Framber Valdez, Cristian Javier, Jose Urquidy, and Luis Garcia, are under team control in early years of arbitration.

Weather

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U.S. Forecasts

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

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists major US cities and their weather forecasts.

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The WSJ Daily Crossword | Edited by Mike Shenk

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-68 indicating starting positions for clues.

ROUND AND ROUND | By Katie Hale

- Across: 1 Unexciting, 5 Maker of EOS cameras, 10 "Let's go!", 14 FedEx's has a hidden arrow, 15 Love, Italian-style, 16 Dance rhymed with "menorah" in "Hanukkah, Oh Hanukkah", 17 Treaty of agreement or argument, 18 Minimum amount, 19 Curved part of the foot, 20 Prenuptial events, 23 Taste and smell, for two, 24 Plow-pulling pair, 27 Pair plus one, 29 ___ Lanka, 30 CBS franchise, 31 "The Persistence of Memory" painter, 34 Show-offy strokes by pool players, 37 Mountains between Europe and Asia, 39 Refrain syllable, 40 Commotions, 41 Toppers for Laurel and Hardy, 44 Exceedingly, 45 "How exciting!", 46 Pair, 47 Not out, 49 Sites for sports, 51 Eggplant color, 55 Wastes one's efforts, and a hint to this puzzle's theme, 59 Pole on a galleon, 61 Bring out, 62 Small batteries, 63 Border on, 64 Game piece, 65 Abundant, 66 Kids' guessing game, 67 Winter gliders, 68 River in the Percy Jackson books

- Down: 1 Shapeless masses, 2 "The Kominsky Method" creator Chuck, 3 Once more, 4 Directive from a tattoo artist, perhaps, 5 Decides to stop, 6 Iowa State site, 7 "The Daily Show" host Trevor, 8 Words of approximation, 9 Schmoose professionally, 10 Presentation graphic, 11 Wire tapping system?, 12 "The Lord of the Rings" baddie, 13 Informal denial, 21 ___ Lingus, 22 Are real, 25 America's first multimillionaire, 26 Elliott in the Songwriters Hall of Fame, 28 Big name in lawn and garden care, 29 Sings like Ella Fitzgerald, 31 43rd president, informally, 32 Cheering wildly, 33 Stops cooperating with interrogators, 35 One of the Gershwins, 36 Futuristic vehicles, 38 Roomy vehicle, 42 Dessert apples, 43 Homo ___, 48 Cat coat, 50 Eccentric, 52 Braid, 53 Green, in a way, 54 Newark's county, 56 Pop star, 57 Zap in the microwave, informally, 58 Included in an email chain, 59 Fifth month, in Paris, 60 Six-pack muscles

Previous Puzzle's Solution grid with words filled in.

The contest answer is SLYLY. Each theme answer ends in a double bigram: BROUHHA, NEFERTITI, TEXCOCO, SUPERMEME and HONOLULU. Find a three-letter word in the grid starting with each bigram: HAS, TIL, COY, MEL and LUY. The added letters spell the contest answer.

Solve this puzzle online and discuss it at WSJ.com/Puzzles.

OPINION

The Cure? Cut Taxes and Spending



INSIDE VIEW
By Andy Kessler

A 45-day period will forever be known as a “Truss” for Liz Truss’s tenure before resigning as British prime minister, much as 11 days is a “Mooch” for Anthony Scaramucci’s short stint in the Trump administration. Come to think of it, a “Biden” is 208 days, the time from Inauguration Day until the fall of Kabul after the Afghanistan scam in August 2021. President Biden has been a bit of a lame duck ever since, and if polls are right, even more so after Tuesday’s elections.

I feel bad for Ms. Truss, but only because whoever was in that seat, like the passenger in James Bond’s Aston Martin DB5, was going to be ejected. Unknown to many, U.K. pension funds had been hedging against interest rate increases, using derivatives with six or seven times leverage. As inflation hit 10.1%, interest rates were going up no matter what, which caused funds to dump gilts, or bonds, to pay their margin calls, crushing the currency.

The press jumped on Ms. Truss’s tax cuts (lowered from 45% to 40% for £150,000 earners) but ignored her subsidies for high energy bills. It wasn’t tax cuts that did her in; it was deadly pension leverage. Both Reagan and Thatcher knew to

slay the inflation dragon first. To stabilize the situation, the Bank of England printed tons of pounds to buy bonds—more quantitative easing in an inflationary world. Not smart.

The new prime minister Rishi Sunak, a Stanford M.B.A., is foolishly exploring tax increases. Sadly, tax cuts are probably dead in the U.K., maybe for a decade. Well, stick a fork in jolly old England. Mr. Sunak should listen to his predecessor Winston Churchill, who said: “We contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle.”

The U.S. should heed that advice as well. Mr. Biden says “in our bones, we know democracy is at risk” but nevertheless he turbocharges spending—bucket handle lifting. The Biden administration is pro-union, a tax on consumers. It killed pipelines and energy exploration, raising energy costs. It has forgiven student loans, which means tuition is going up. Its Inflation Reduction Act is filled with green pork and healthcare tax credits. It set minimum corporate taxes of 15% for big corporations that will be passed along to consumers. And a 1% excise tax on stock buybacks. And 87,000 new IRS agents to shake down the American middle class. Democracy is at risk.

Interest rates of 5% or

higher should slay the inflation dragon, but then what? Are tax cuts here as toxic as in the U.K.? I suppose it depends on who wins on Tuesday. We know a Republican House and Senate will fire up committee investigations and made-for-TV hearings. That’s their prerogative and payback for recent show trials/hearings. But are there any pro-growth legislators in the building?

Economic growth will come from efficient supply chains and U.S. productivity.

We need tax cuts to nurture the production side of the economy. And deregulation of energy, healthcare and other industries to reverse the Biden administration’s heavy hand.

The stock market may already be reflecting this outcome. As polls have shown a bigger red wave coming, the Dow Jones Industrial Average has gained more than 3,000 points since a Sept. 30 low. Markets love divided government, and the presumption is that Republicans will be better shepherds of pro-growth economic policies. Of course, any hints of tax cuts in 2023 will rekindle references to Ms. Truss. So what? Have a backbone. And while it’s hard to make spending cuts during an inflationary crisis, markets will respect this. Even cheer.

As forces push decoupling from China, economic growth is going to come from efficient supply chains and productivity in manufacturing in the U.S. Tax and spending cuts are the cure. Mr. Biden has called conservatives semi-fascists, which is rich given his policies. But it’s no time to be semi-supply-siders—see the recent Truss fall. Republicans must resist the urge to subsidize higher energy costs and instead help slay inflation and bring back a strong, productive economy.

Sadly, California, where I live, remains a lost cause. We have high taxes and high energy costs, yet we vote about whether Indian reservations or smartphone apps should control gambling. Let’s leave that in Nevada. More intriguing is Proposition 30, backed by environmentalists and ride-share firm Lyft and co-founder John Zimmer, to subsidize electric vehicles, especially since the August decree banning sales of gasoline-powered cars by 2035. Proposition 30 would slap a 1.75% tax on incomes over \$2 million, of which 80% would go to subsidize electric vehicles and charging stations and 20% to prevent forest fires.

Strangely, lockdown lord Gov. Gavin Newsom opposes Proposition 30. Well of course he does. You can almost hear the gears in Mr. Newsom’s head spinning, “Hold on. I get to decide how we spend rich Californians’ money, not you.” Please stop yanking up those bucket handles.

BOOKSHELF | By Daniel Akst

Imperial Emporium

Kaufmann’s

By Marylynn Pitz and Laura Malt Schneiderman
(Pittsburgh, 263 pages, \$26.95)

Once upon a time, the central business districts of American cities were studded with vast emporiums dispensing everything from fox stoles to philatelic gear. But they did far more than that, as A.J. Liebling attested when he quipped that the quantity of foreign news available “depends largely on how best a number of drygoods merchants in New York think they can sell underwear.”

That was because newspapers were supported to a great extent by the advertising of department stores. Both institutions flourished symbiotically in the great age of the American middle class, whose values and aspirations they articulated. Department stores were also pioneers of radio, underwriting news and other programming in the medium’s early days. Some stores even got their own broadcasting licenses.

These retailing giants underwrote civic life in other ways. Their owners were often leading figures in philanthropy and local improvement projects. The stores opened career opportunities to women, who also availed themselves of the retailers’ fashionable dining rooms. And their window displays, parades and other attention-seeking activities

enlivened city life. As the former promotions director at one store explained: “We made retailing theater.”

That store was Kaufmann’s, for decades a Pittsburgh landmark. Journalists Marylynn Pitz and Laura Malt Schneiderman chronicle the proud voyage and eventual capsizing of this emblematic downtown dreadnought in “Kaufmann’s: The Family That Built Pittsburgh’s Famed Department Store.” The result is a revealing case study of the type of retail institution that once played such a prominent role in American life—as well as a portrait of the glittering Kaufmann family.

Like so many of the great American retailing families, the Kaufmanns were Jews—in particular, German Jews. Jacob Kaufmann, who started it all, came to America in 1868 as a young man, driven by anti-Semitism, economic woes and his own adventurous spirit. Trudging 10 to 20 miles daily in all weather, he joined other immigrants “peddling small sewing items such as buttons, needles, and thread to the coal miners and mill workers of western Pennsylvania.”

Jacob learned his customers’ cultures and languages, gave credit, saved his money, invested in a horse-drawn cart, sent for his brother Isaac, and with him bet everything on a little shop. They catered to steelworkers and their families, following their father’s principles: “Good merchants make small profits and many sales. . . . Deal fairly and be patient and in time dishonest competitors will crowd your store with customers.”

Two more brothers came, all worked furiously and the family enterprise grew with Pittsburgh, eventually into an enormous store. By the turn of the 20th century, the Kaufmanns were hugely successful. Excluded from the Duquesne Club, the luxurious redoubt of Carnegie and Frick and Mellon, the Kaufmanns helped launch the Concordia Club as a Jewish alternative. The brothers, ever wealthier, built or acquired mansions and held debutante parties but also established a pattern of philanthropy. As the first-generation Kaufmanns died off, their descendants fought over money and power. Some family members even started a competing store. But the multi-faceted 20th-century emporium that Kaufmann’s came to be was built up by Edgar J. Kaufmann Sr. (1885-1955), one of Jacob’s nephews, who consolidated his grip on the business through legal and financial maneuverings and an instrumental marriage to his cousin Lillian.

Jacob Kaufmann sold sundries to steelworkers, saved his money and bought a little shop. The result, over time, was Pittsburgh’s retail giant.

The consummate merchant prince, E.J., as he was known, wasn’t content with mere profit, though he no doubt believed most of his costly initiatives contributed to the bottom line. But he genuinely felt a larger obligation, and he acted on it—for example, by organizing and funding relief efforts for desperate Pittsburghers during the Depression. At the same time he invested a fortune to remodel Kaufmann’s into an Art Deco retail palace.

His vision, and that of so many downtown retailers who strained to create temples of elegance and plenty, was to achieve success by elevating and enlarging the lives of everyday shoppers rather than by catering to their coarser instincts. Thus, after commissioning a series of immense murals by Boardman Robinson (“The History of Trade”) for Kaufmann’s, E.J. unveiled them at a 1930 gala, where he told 600 guests: “The highest achievement of commerce is the patronage of beauty.”

E.J. was a patron of beauty in his private life as well, even aside from his role as Pittsburgh’s leading playboy. His most enduring aesthetic contribution was to commission two extraordinary houses: first, Frank Lloyd Wright’s iconic Fallingwater, in the countryside of western Pennsylvania; and then, in Palm Springs, Calif., a modernist gem by Richard Neutra today known as the Kaufmann House.

A paternalistic employer, E.J. saw to it that Kaufmann’s workers had everything from continuing education for career advancement to subsidized summer vacations (though, like most stores, Kaufmann’s was slow to hire blacks beyond menial positions). Benefits were generous, and proper speech and comportment were emphasized. “Employee-written articles,” the authors note, “urged sales clerks to say ‘Madam’ instead of ‘Lady’ when addressing shoppers, and ‘This is fashionable’ rather than ‘This is nifty.’” After World War II, like many family-operated department stores, Kaufmann’s was sold to a larger outfit, in this case the May Co. The years that followed, though prosperous at first, were marked by trends that would prove fatal, including the rise of the automobile, the flight of affluent shoppers from downtown, and the advent of such discount powerhouses as Walmart, Target and Costco.

“Kaufmann’s” is concise and deeply researched if a bit pedestrian. For a deeper sense of the man behind the store, try Franklin Toker’s “Fallingwater Rising: Frank Lloyd Wright, E.J. Kaufmann, and America’s Most Extraordinary House” (2003). Still, for understanding the rise and fall of department stores, by all means visit “Kaufmann’s.”

Mr. Akst writes the Journal’s weekly news quiz.

Mexico Threatens a Trade War



AMERICAS
By Mary Anastasia O’Grady

U.S.-Mexico relations are on the rocks again, but that isn’t because of a fast-talking American politician who insults the neighbors. (That was Donald Trump, in case you forgot.) The latest confrontation is a looming commercial conflict triggered by Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, aka AMLO.

Last month Mexico’s Deputy Agriculture Minister Víctor Suárez told Reuters that his country plans to go ahead with a 2020 decree that aims to phase out genetically modified yellow corn. The target date for implementation is 2024. AMLO wants Mexico to end the purchase and production of food that relies on the use of the herbicide glyphosate and to return to only consuming foods produced with non-GM corn.

This is going to be a problem for all of North America. Mexico buys 16.8 million metric tons of yellow corn, mostly for feed, from the U.S. annually. Mexico is the second largest importer of corn in the world, after China, and most of it is supplied by American farmers. It’s the second-largest corn export market for U.S. growers. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack told RFD-TV, a rural U.S. news outlet, at the end of

September that his team has been trying to “persuade” Mexican officials that a ban on GM corn would be “catastrophic” not only for U.S. agriculture but also for agriculture in Mexico and for Mexican consumers.

That’s no exaggeration. According to a study released Sept. 19 by Virginia-based business management consultant World Perspectives Inc., the negative effects of a Mexican prohibition on GM corn would be devastating—at home and abroad.

The study was done for a multinational group of food and agricultural interests, including Mexico’s National Agriculture Council and the Mexican Association of Food Producers. It found that over a “10-year forecast period, the Mexican ban on GM corn would cause the U.S. economy to lose \$73.89 billion in economic output, and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) would contract by \$30.55 billion.” In the first year of a ban, the U.S. corn industry alone would suffer a net loss of \$3.56 billion, followed by a loss of \$5.56 billion in the second year. More broadly, via a ripple effect, “the U.S. would lose 32,217 jobs annually with labor income falling \$18.38 billion.”

The Canadian economy would also suffer, losing \$92.85 million in economic output over 10 years.

The ban would help producers of non-GM corn, as its price would go up 48% in the first year, the study finds.

Over 10 years the non-GM corn price would increase 19%.

But most Mexicans would suffer *mucho*. Mexican GDP would shrink by \$11.72 billion over 10 years, the study estimates, and output would fall by \$19.39 billion. The harm would extend beyond agriculture with an expected annual loss of 56,958 jobs, reducing labor income \$2.99 billion.

A ban on genetically modified corn would be catastrophic for North America.

Mexican access to protein would be reduced, “due to a 13.7 percent increase in feed costs,” which would push up prices at the supermarket. A 66.7% spike in poultry prices would be hard on consumers, and eggs could “become a luxury item” for the poor.

Mexican consumers would likely opt for more-affordable imported meat and poultry raised on GM corn, damaging domestic livestock producers. There would also be a cost to the environment, according to the study, because “non-GM crop production forgoes the benefits of higher yields and reduced land use in addition to lower chemical applications and no-till practices that protect soils and lower carbon emissions.”

Mexico has been vague

about how it intends to impose the ban. But Mr. Suárez’s recent comments have stirred concerns among growers, food producers and consumers in all three countries. On Oct. 19, Mexico issued a new inflation-fighting decree that removes import tariffs for the next three months on a list of agricultural products. It used the moment to reiterate its commitment to banning glyphosate and GM corn “in the diet of Mexican women and men, which implies that [corn] with these characteristics cannot be imported.”

This view is entirely in keeping with the antiscience bias that the AMLO administration is known to harbor. But it’s hard to square with the country’s obligations to keep the market open under the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement, an updated version of the 1993 North American Free Trade Agreement.

In his interview with RFD-TV, Mr. Vilsack said he hopes Mexico will recognize that under the USMCA “they have a responsibility to respect the science.” Failing that, the U.S. and Canada are likely to take the matter to an arbitration panel. If Mexico loses, its trading partners will have the right to retaliate by imposing new tariffs on Mexican exports.

Trade policy is said to produce winners and losers. But if AMLO prevails in this case, almost everyone will be a loser.

Write to O’Grady@wsj.com.

Florida, You’re No New York

By Brenda Cronin

West Palm Beach, Fla. When everyone was fleeing New York for Florida in 2020, I was among them. Manhattan felt like a mausoleum and Palm Beach County like spring break. I cast my lot with the Sunshine State but more than two years later concede: Florida, you’re no New York.

The points of exit and entry illustrate the profound distinctions between the two. After landing at Palm Beach International Airport, the ride home takes far less time than the trek from security to departure gate in the hellscapes known as LaGuardia. The airport’s unfinished \$8 billion face lift has made things worse, converting Terminal B from a dingy warren into a cavernous shopping mall choked with duty-free tchotchkes, a cordillera of escalators and a Vegas-esque “water feature.”

Florida is easy compared with New York City. Admittedly, one has to drive everywhere, but the roads are wide and pedestrians are few—in part because it is sweltering much of the year.

Florida can’t touch New York City’s sui generis cache of brains, talent and industry.

If you like anarchy and menace, the Sunshine State isn’t the place for you.

But everyday life isn’t lived at the Frick or the Metropolitan Opera or Le Bernardin. New York has an edge on some mundane matters—24-hour pharmacies, bagel shops, nail salons—but it trails Florida on countless other quotidian benchmarks.

Florida largely works and usually costs much less. In Florida, \$16 will get you an

hour on impeccably groomed public tennis courts. An hour on indoor courts near Grand Central Terminal used to set me back \$240—and that was in 2010. I received Covid boosters at a West Palm Beach grocery store in moments. By contrast, picking up a prescription in Midtown recently was a classic Manhattan horror show, replete with surly queue and overwhelmed pharmacists. Florida cleans up in the taxes department and—summer aside—in weather, too. Two miserable words I’m happy never to hear again: wintry mix.

But the New York City sense of accomplishment—I survived another day here!—has no equal in Florida. When the sun sets behind the palm trees, there is no satisfaction at having persevered through a metropolitan obstacle course, nor the thrill of being part of a city like no other.

Manhattan has abundant ore for complaining—the favorite pastime of New York-

ers. The law and order of West Palm Beach seems bland compared with the Big Apple’s endearing squalor, menace and Mad Max anarchic spirit. Sidewalks that were empty during the pandemic are full again, with electric bikes and scooters ripping willy-nilly through crowds.

In the subway, squatters terrorize riders foolhardy enough to brave mass transit. The streets reek of marijuana. What else? The filth, the graffiti, the people ramming along the avenues or slumped on sidewalks.

Aboard the Hampton Jitney last week, I said how wonderful it was that the pandemic had ended and New York City was back. The passenger beside me raised an eyebrow. “I guess that’s why,” he observed, “we’re on a bus getting the hell out.”

Ms. Cronin is an associate editorial features editor at the Journal.

OPINION

REVIEW & OUTLOOK

Biden Embarrasses Joe Manchin

Every so often President Biden blurts out what he really thinks, even if it's politically or diplomatically embarrassing. He did it again Friday when he said his Administration will shut down coal plants across America. While true, his comment won't help Democratic Senate candidates or West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin.

Mr. Biden's campaign remarks in Carlsbad, Calif., were supposed to be about the semiconductor bill and his "unity agenda." But during a riff on Democrats' tax and climate spending bill, he let slip that "we're going to be shutting [coal] plants down all across America and having wind and solar."

The boast drew an indignant response from Mr. Manchin, whose state is a top coal producer and generates some 90% of its electricity from coal. "President Biden's comments are not only outrageous and divorced from reality, they ignore the severe economic pain the American people are feeling because of rising energy costs," Mr. Manchin said.

"Let me be clear," he added, "This is something the President has never said to me." Maybe not, but if Mr. Biden's comments came as a shock, the Senator must not be paying attention. The main purpose of the climate provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act Mr. Manchin negotiated with Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer was to drive coal plants, and over time all fossil fuels, out of business.

Eight state coal associations sent a letter to Mr. Manchin warning the legislation will "severely threaten American coal" in part by "turbocharging the lofty incentives that already extend to renewable energy." Generous subsidies for wind and solar have made coal power un-

competitive in wholesale markets. Coal plants can't cover their costs running only some of the time. Mr. Manchin said the companies were wrong in a reply letter.

About one-third of the country's coal plants have retired since 2008. The super green subsidies in the Inflation Reduction Act will accelerate coal plant retirements.

Biden officials have also teased new regulations that are intended to raise coal plant costs and force more shutdowns, which will kill thousands of jobs and make power less reliable.

Mr. Manchin bought a bill of climate goods but preferred not to admit it. Now he will have to watch the Administration put West Virginians out of work, and he will have voted for it. As for Mr. Biden's point that wind and solar are cheaper than coal, that's only because of taxpayer subsidies and the fact that their intermittency is backed up by fossil fuels.

A White House statement on Saturday tried damage control by praising Mr. Manchin and boasting about Mr. Biden's effort to bring "new energy" and manufacturing jobs to West Virginia: "He regrets it if anyone hearing these remarks took offense. The President was commenting on a fact of economics and technology" and "our goal as a nation is to combat climate change."

Note the Administration didn't disavow the President's remarks. No doubt Democrats running for Senate in Ohio (Tim Ryan), Pennsylvania (John Fetterman) and Wisconsin (Mandela Barnes)—states where economies and electric grids depend on coal—hope voters didn't hear what Mr. Biden said. But voters should know what they're voting for, even if Mr. Manchin now claims he didn't.

The Senator is upset the President told the truth about killing coal plants.

No Guardrails for Regulators

As the Supreme Court's originalists reinvigorate the separation of powers, federal agencies are fighting to dodge constitutional challenges to their political overreach. On Monday the Justices will consider in two cases whether to let them (*Axon Enterprise v. FTC* and *SEC v. Cochran*).

A bedrock constitutional principle is that Congress writes the laws, the executive enforces them, and the judiciary interprets them. This vital separation safeguards individual liberty. But independent agencies—the so-called fourth branch of government—have grown to accumulate all three powers, and they too often seek to supersede Congress and the judiciary.

Consider police body camera maker Axon's run-in with the Federal Trade Commission. Axon says the agency threatened to force it via an administrative proceeding to divest a small acquisition and stand up a competitor using its intellectual property. The FTC almost always wins the cases it brings in its own tribunal since it plays investigator, prosecutor and judge.

Axon sued in federal court, arguing that FTC administrative law judges are exercising unconstitutional power. They have dual-layer protections from presidential removal, and the agency's combination of "investigatory, prosecutorial, adjudicative, and appellate functions" violates the separation of powers.

The agency, however, said Axon would have to wait until the FTC finished its administrative process and was slapped with a potentially ruinous judgment before bringing its constitutional challenge in federal court. In other words, only after the FTC crushes you can you challenge its power to do so. The FTC's argument flouts law and Supreme Court precedent.

The Supreme Court hears challenges to FTC and SEC abuses.

Congress expressly gave federal district courts "original jurisdiction of all civil actions arising under the Constitution, laws, or treaties of the United States." While the FTC Act requires defendants to wait for the commission to render a final order before appealing in court, Congress didn't restrict judicial review of constitutional challenges.

The High Court's *Free Enterprise Fund* (2010) decision upheld federal court jurisdiction over a similar constitutional challenge to the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board. Chief Justice John Roberts wrote in the majority opinion that the government "offers no reason and cites no authority why" separation-of-powers challenges are different than other complaints of constitutional violations.

Now the FTC argues that Congress implicitly stripped federal district courts of jurisdiction by expressly providing appellate court review of final agency orders. In a separate case before the Supreme Court, the Securities and Exchange Commission makes the same argument concerning a constitutional challenge to removal restrictions for its administrative law judges.

But as the defendant in the SEC case argues, "proceedings frequently drag on for several years and take such an enormous personal, financial, and reputational toll on their targets that most—despite vigorously asserting their innocence—are forced to capitulate." Preventing constitutional challenges until a punishment is rendered has the effect of denying plaintiffs the right to judicial review.

Administrative agencies are compounding their constitutional abuses by throwing up roadblocks for defendants to obtain relief. In doing so, they're underscoring why courts need to keep them in check.

Trump Rallies for . . . Trump

Donald Trump's allies are saying the former President who lost in 2020 is going to announce as early as next week that he's running for the White House again in 2024. In case you doubt it, Mr. Trump is already mocking his fellow Republicans and potential competitors before Tuesday's midterm election.

Mr. Trump held a rally Saturday in Latrobe, Pa., ostensibly to boost turnout for GOP Senate candidate Mehmet Oz and nominee for Governor, Doug Mastriano. Mr. Trump endorsed both men in the primaries, and Mr. Mastriano is trailing in the polls. Mr. Oz is in a tight race with Lt. Gov. John Fetterman, and his defeat could cost the GOP control of the Senate. There's little doubt that David McCormick, who lost narrowly to Mr. Oz after Mr. Trump's endorsement, would be winning handily against the far-left Mr. Fetterman.

But as usual with Mr. Trump, the rally turned out to be less for Mr. Oz than for . . . himself. During the rally Mr. Trump showed the results of a recent poll for the GOP presidential nomination in 2024.

"We're winning big, big, big in the Republican Party for the nomination like nobody's ever seen before," Mr. Trump said as the numbers went on screen. "There it is, Trump at 71. Ron DeSanctimonious at 10%."

That was a shot at Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who is running for re-election in Florida, which is now Mr. Trump's home state. Mr. DeSantis is ahead in the polls, but the election isn't over. Perhaps Mr. Trump thinks that if he can reduce

the Governor's margin of victory on Tuesday Mr. DeSantis will be less likely to challenge him for the nomination.

Even before the midterms, he's mocking DeSantis and Pence.

Mr. Trump kept going, mocking his former Vice President, who is also considering a run for the White House. "Mike Pence at 7—oh, Mike's doing better than I thought," he said.

Then he brought up Ted Cruz, the Texas Senator who ran against Mr. Trump in 2016 and could run again.

"Ted Cruz is doing a good job, by the way. He didn't like me for a while but we got to be friends, right? Could've put him on the Supreme Court," Mr. Trump said. "If I'd put him on the Supreme Court, I would have had 100% of the people in the Senate voting in favor, to move him out. Okay? Even the Democrats would've voted for him. Okay? But he's great and he's smart and he's good." That shot at Mr. Cruz's unlikability is best understood as a warning not to run or Mr. Trump will return to calling him "lyin' Ted."

Mr. Trump wants to clear the GOP presidential field, and he knows that Mr. DeSantis has emerged in the last two years as his strongest potential opponent. A declaration so soon after the election, if he does declare next week, will also be an attempt to deter a possible Justice Department indictment.

But his focus on his own prospects, and criticizing his fellow Republicans even before a crucial midterm election, is one more reminder that Mr. Trump's only abiding principle is what's good for Donald Trump.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pandemic Discontent Isn't Going Anywhere

The plea for amnesty on the part of Covid policy hard-liners ("Now They Want a Pandemic 'Amnesty,'" Review & Outlook, Nov. 2) is an attempt to focus us on the wrong aspect of their behavior. They want the main issue to be the extent to which they were or weren't correct in their assessment of the effects of the pandemic.

Good-faith errors in the face of uncertainty, however, aren't moral failures. The real issue is that hard-liners denied individuals the right to define for themselves how to assess risk versus freedom, and declined to use democratic processes to define flexible approaches that allow the people to sort out conflicts. Time and again, we had elected bodies attempting to ease arbitrary restrictions, only to have various entities use executive mechanisms to thwart or bypass the will of the people. Worse, they turned support for these autocratic moves into a litmus test of who was a good or responsible person, and then implemented those judgments via censorship and employment actions.

The pandemic showed us who believes in the superiority of free people solving problems in a decentralized fashion, and who sees freedom as a luxury to be abrogated during the collective crisis du jour. There should be no amnesty for the latter group. The appropriate accountability is to remove them from positions of power in what is supposed to be a free society.

TED ZACHARY
Detroit

A pandemic amnesty? This shocks the senses of households with two working parents, who had to somehow arrange to teach their children at home, while giving up one income. Same for the people who were denied access to their loved ones as they lay dying alone in a hospital room. Or the children suffering irredeemable harm, first by being forced out of school and then by requiring that they wear masks.

Who could forget, or forgive, the demand that we lose our jobs, be denied entry to restaurants and other social events and forbidden from houses of worship for lack of a vaccine? Some even demanded that medical care be withheld from the unvaccinated and hoped we would die. These are the people who now want "amnesty."

TOBY J. BRONSTEIN
Caswell Beach, N.C.

My family owns several small apartment buildings in New York City. We have lost many tens of thousands of dollars in rental income, without recourse, as a direct consequence of the lockdown and eviction moratorium imposed by the likes of Anthony Fauci, the CDC, Andrew Cuomo and Kathy Hochul.

No, I won't forgive or forget the "experts" for their "mistakes during the pandemic." I look forward to holding the officials to account this week.

ROBERT E. SPITALNICK
Great Neck, N.Y.

Ranked-Choice Voting: Solution or Menace?

Ensuring one's vote counts in a ranked-choice-voting (RCV) election requires ranking as many candidates as is conscionable ("The 'Ranked Choice' Scam" by Kimberley Strassel, *Potomac Watch*, Oct. 28). The voters whose ballots were discarded after the first round for only selecting Alaska's Nick Begich Jr. might as well not have voted.

Pretending that RCV is an "instant runoff" misunderstands the strategy involved. Voters not only have to determine who they like best among the candidates, but also which "backup" candidates, if any, are acceptable to them and in what order. Repeat for five or six races, four candidates each. At some point, many voters lose patience.

Participating in the "instant runoff" requires predicting in advance which candidates will make it to the final round of tabulation. By contrast, in a traditional runoff election voters can compare the final two head to head.

The strategy of RCV is far more complicated and consequential than

deciding among moose burgers, halibut and salmon for dinner.

SARAH MONTALBANO
Bozeman, Mont.

Ms. Montalbano was a Robert L. Bartley Fellow at the Journal.

Ms. Strassel writes that before RCV Alaska had a "perfectly good election system." I beg to differ. In Alaska's old system, like the current one in Pennsylvania, the general-election candidates are decided in partisan primaries by a small number of extreme voters. That is why in the current Pennsylvania Senate race we get to choose between a MAGA candidate and a socialist, neither of which appeals to me.

In a ranked-choice system, Conor Lamb, a moderate Democrat, and David McCormick, a moderate Republican would be on the ballot, and they would be my first two choices. There is a learning curve when changing systems, but we will get better choices.

RICHARD ABRAHAM
Havertown, Pa.

Steel Tariffs Cost America's Apple Growers

Regarding your editorial "Now They're the Biden-Trump Tariffs" (Oct. 27): Apple growers were innocent bystanders in that fight, yet they still pay for Section 232 tariffs in higher prices for tractors, trucks and apple-sorting and -handling equipment made from steel and aluminum.

Throw the Book at Criminals For Illegal Gun Possession

Barry Latzer's ideas in "It's Possible to Reduce Incarceration and Crime" (op-ed, Oct. 28) might result in some improvement, but in my opinion he doesn't go far enough. We need less plea bargaining and offenders getting out early for good behavior, particularly for crimes involving a weapon. Make that a severe punishment. Based on recidivism rates, these criminals need to be kept off the streets for as long as possible. Make them think twice about possessing a gun. Stop pampering these bad dudes and make the streets safer.

Remember, every time a gun is fired, it potentially means a loss of life for someone, including innocent bystanders. Illegal gun possession is the first step in an escalating chain leading to a disaster.

BRUCE WINTERS
Webster, N.Y.

That's not all. When U.S. tariffs were imposed, India had just become the second-largest export market for U.S. apples. That an apple grown in the state of Washington can be shipped thousands of nautical miles from Seattle to Mumbai and still be delicious and affordable is a miracle of modern agriculture. India, however, retaliated against U.S. tariffs, including with import tariffs on U.S. apples, which now total 70%. From January 2019 to June 2022, the loss of the Indian market has cost U.S. apple growers more than \$500 million in sales.

JIM BAIR
President & CEO, U.S. Apple Association
Falls Church, Va.

In Defense of More Efficiency

Richard Schechter's letter "Ronald Reagan vs. the GOP" (Nov. 2) says that recent administrations and lawmakers have failed to invest in a strong national defense. With America's so-called defense spending larger than that of the next nine countries combined, doesn't it seem like time we investigate what we are defending and the efficiency of our defense structure?

FRITZ GROSZKRUGER
Dumont, Iowa

Pepper ... And Salt

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



"Ed never attends any party without his opinion-cancelling headphones."

Letters intended for publication should be emailed to wsj.letters@wsj.com. Please include your city, state and telephone number. All letters are subject to editing, and unpublished letters cannot be acknowledged.

OPINION

Hillsdale College Will Never Discriminate

By Larry P. Arnn

Hillsdale, Mich. The Supreme Court is considering whether higher-education institutions can take race into account in admissions. Hillsdale College never has. Founded in 1844 to educate "all persons . . . irrespective of nationality, color, or sex," Hillsdale has never even recorded students' racial backgrounds.

The pressure to count by race used to come from forces in favor of slavery and discrimination. Today, it's justified in the name of "diversity." No matter its source, Hillsdale will continue to resist this pernicious ideology and judge our applicants on their individual merits.

We stopped taking federal money when Washington demanded we count our students by race.

The abolitionists who wrote our Articles of Association were classically educated Christian preachers. Our oldest building was dedicated on the Fourth of July with the claim that ignorance was the seed of slavery, and that Hillsdale College would work to eliminate ignorance in the name of freedom.

A century after the college's founding, the 1955 Hillsdale football team was invited to play at the Tangerine Bowl in Florida but instructed to leave all its black members at home. In keeping with its principles, the team declined to play.

In the 1970s, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare demanded Hillsdale College begin to count its students by race. It claimed the power to make this demand because some of the college's students were using taxpayer-funded aid to pay for their education. After losing litigation that went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, Hillsdale announced it would no longer accept government money.

Most Americans still agree with us on these points. When asked explicitly about taking race and ethnicity into account in hiring and promotion decisions, 74% of respondents are opposed. What Lincoln called the "better angels of our nature" still live.

Our policy of nondiscrimination has led to a student population comprising an array of socio-economic groups and cultural, racial and religious traditions. Currently, Hillsdale College has students enrolled from 49 states. In the past five years, the college has accepted students from 26 foreign countries, including Barbados, Brazil, Ghana, Guatemala, Kenya, Mongolia, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Thailand and Vietnam. Not one of these young men and women was accepted on the grounds of race, heritage or background. They were invited to attend Hillsdale on the strength of their character, their intellect and, crucially, their intentions. Learning is hard work. It is done only by those who are determined to do it. Neither we nor anyone else is able to provide an education alone.

Race quotas and preferences are an affront to the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause, which bars states from discrimination on the basis of race. They affront the beautiful principles espoused in the Declaration of Independence. As President Calvin Coolidge once noted, "If all men are created equal, that is final. If they are endowed with inalienable rights, that is final. . . . No advance, no progress can be made beyond these propositions." Those who attempt to move beyond the Declaration, Coolidge concluded, will inevitably lead us backward.

The solution to racial polarization is a return to the founding principles of our nation. Whatever others do, we at Hillsdale College will hold to them.

Mr. Arnn is president of Hillsdale College.

A Supply-Side Defense Against Putin

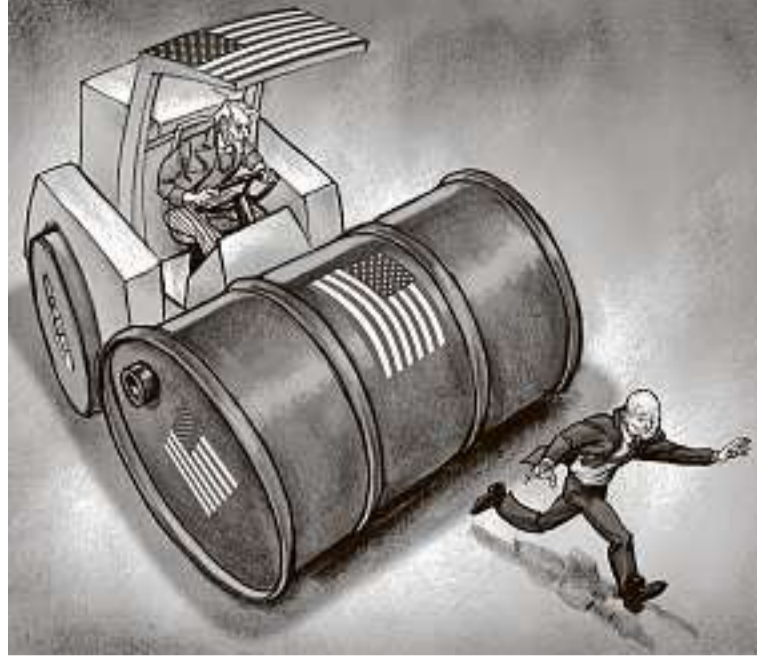
By Thomas J. Duesterberg And David Asher

A key part of Vladimir Putin's effort to rebuild the Soviet empire is his attack on Western economies. By exploiting Europe's dependence on Russian oil and gas, Mr. Putin is deploying energy inflation as a weapon. This lets him take advantage of a world economy on the brink of recession. He aims to sap the will of the U.S. and its allies to buttress the Ukrainian resistance. Unless the West takes supply-side measures to combat high energy prices, Mr. Putin could succeed.

Mr. Putin's ability to finance the war in the face of massive sanctions has been undergirded by cutting natural-gas supplies to Europe and expanding oil exports to China and India. Aided by production cuts by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, Russia has enjoyed export profits that are significantly higher since the war began. Mr. Putin may be flailing on the ground, but his economic-warfare strategy remains effective.

The effects of Western sanctions and Russian manipulation of flows of natural gas and oil have turbocharged the price inflation already under way because of expansionary monetary and fiscal policy. Central banks, led by the Federal Reserve, have responded with comprehensive and fast-moving monetary tightening. But European authorities especially are outgunned by inflation, as the European Central Bank's target rate at 1.5% is no match for headline inflation of 10.7% in the eurozone and even higher in the east.

The combination of higher interest rates and reduced oil and gas supplies in the West could be lethal. Britain is in recession and faces historic political instability. Most European countries are in recession. Germany has thrown all budgetary caution to the wind. France is facing a new round of *gilets jaunes* protests and union-led actions. Japan has the world's highest level of debt as a percentage of gross domestic product and can't deploy fiscal



DAVID KLEIN

stimulus. The U.S. is may soon be in a recession, and its Treasury market, according to Secretary Janet Yellen, is threatened by a "loss of adequate liquidity."

According to the World Bank, debt distress in low-income countries is at its highest in more than 50 years. China was the global engine of growth after the Great Recession,

The most urgent policy shift is to promote energy production domestically and by reliable partners.

but it is on the verge of at best lower growth and at worst a financial crisis. In the recent Communist Party Congress, Xi Jinping doubled down on the zero-Covid and command-economy policies responsible for the slowdown.

In these circumstances, as former Treasury Secretary Larry Summers recently argued, another spike in oil and gas prices represents "a downside wild card . . . both with respect

to inflation and with respect to recession." It is this risk that Mr. Putin is exploiting with his manipulation of oil and gas supplies and threats to escalate the war, including with nuclear weapons. Such threats are weighing on global financial markets, and following through on the threats would raise the chances of a deep recession.

The European Union has announced a firm cutoff of Russian oil and gas imports and is trying to get an agreement among Group of Seven nations and other allies on price caps on these commodities. But the Biden administration wants to keep enough Russian oil on the market to avoid further price increases and is even considering a windfall profits tax on oil and gas companies. Instead of tacitly facilitating the continued flow of Russian oil, the U.S. should step up production and other supply-side measures. The most urgent shift in policy is to encourage production domestically and among reliable partners.

The U.S. could do so by granting financial incentives and issuing the necessary permits. Europe could

offset the loss of Russian supplies by supporting the financing and building of infrastructure for more liquefied natural gas imports or pipeline imports from North Africa and Central Asia. The U.K. and Norway could ramp up production of offshore resources. Both the U.S. and EU ought to rethink their tilt toward Iran and find ways to bring Saudi Arabia to a more helpful outlook on oil supplies and prices. Revenues from oil and gas sales now account for about half Russia's budget, so replacing their exports would make it harder for Mr. Putin to prolong the war.

Second, both the U.S. and Europe need to stimulate the supply side of the economy by reducing regulatory impediments to the private sector. Helpful measures include easing permits for infrastructure and mining development, leasing land for energy development, and reducing antitrust barriers to efficient consolidation of firms.

Third, instead of engaging in autarkic policies to build the technologies of the future and produce the raw materials needed for them through industrial policy, the U.S., EU, Japan, and other allies ought to use comparative advantages to build these technologies. Instead of starting another trade war over domestic content requirements for electric vehicles or subsidizing solar and wind equipment, Western allies should combine efforts to ensure the Russians and their Chinese allies can't further undermine their economic strength.

These policy shifts are unlikely under the current one-party rule in the U.S., but changes after the November election may open a window to a supply-side course correction. With a brutal war on its doorstep, an economic downturn looming, and a growing recognition of Chinese ambitions to aid Russia, Europe is becoming disposed to a new approach, including openness to producing more oil and gas and nuclear power.

Messrs. Duesterberg and Asher are senior fellows at the Hudson Institute.

Democrats Develop Elon Musk Derangement Syndrome



LIFE SCIENCE
By Allisia Finley

that they both drive the left into hysterical fits.

As President Biden last week warned in a dark speech that American democracy is "under attack" by Mr. Trump and "MAGA Republicans," Democrats and their media allies hyperventilated that Mr. Musk would take a wrecking ball to Twitter. "The world's richest man has apparently decided to set his \$44 billion investment on fire," wrote one Washington Post columnist.

Mr. Musk's takeover is no more likely to destroy Twitter than Republican control of Congress will destroy democracy. Democrats are panicking because both will impose much-needed checks on progressive rule.

For months liberals have warned that Mr. Musk's free-speech policies would turn Twitter into a cesspool of violence, obscenity and hate, even though he has assured advertisers he won't make it an anything-goes platform. Nonetheless, companies such as General Motors, Pfizer and Mondelez have bought the spin and paused advertising on the platform.

Democrats are raising a new bogeyman. Connecticut Sen. Chris Murphy on Oct. 31 called for the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, or Cfius, to investigate the "national security implications of Saudi Arabia's purchase of Twitter." "We should be concerned that the Saudis, who have a clear interest in repressing political speech and impacting U.S. politics, are now

the second-largest owner of a major social media platform," he tweeted.

The Saudi government didn't "purchase" Twitter. A Saudi prince's conglomerate, Kingdom Holding Co., held a roughly \$1.89 billion stake in Twitter as a public company that is rolling over in Mr. Musk's deal to take it private. Mr. Murphy says the Saudis have a "clear political motivation" because they could have cashed out of Twitter as many public investors did, which "would have been the financially sound thing to do."

Not if the Saudis, like former CEO Jack Dorsey and U.S. venture funds that kept or acquired stakes, believe Mr. Musk will turn the challenged company around. Democrats may struggle to comprehend this, but not everyone agrees that Mr. Musk is destined to fail.

The day after Mr. Murphy's letter, the Washington Post reported that White House officials were considering a national-security investigation into Mr. Musk's Twitter takeover owing to concern about its foreign investors—namely, the Kingdom Holding Co. and Binance, a cryptocurrency exchange founded by a Chinese-Canadian business executive.

A 2018 law lets Cfius review deals in which a foreign entity takes a minority stake in a U.S. business that maintains "critical infrastructure" or collects sensitive

personal data of U.S. citizens. The White House's purported concern is that Mr. Musk could share Twitter user data with foreign investors, who might also seek to censor content they dislike.

Some Democrats also warn that Mr. Musk could suppress views that offend China's Communist Party to protect Tesla's sizable business in China. That's unlikely under Mr. Musk's plan to make Twitter's algo-

They oppose his takeover of Twitter for the simple reason that they want to silence conservative views.

gorithms open-source. It's also strangely inconsistent with Democrats' lack of concern that TikTok, which is wholly owned by the Chinese company ByteDance, will moderate content at Beijing's behest.

A Bloomberg dispatch last month reported that Biden officials were discussing whether to subject the Twitter deal to a national-security review after growing disturbed by Mr. Musk's recent threat to stop financing the Starlink satellite service to Ukraine—in addition to tweets viewed as favorable to the Kremlin, including that Russia should be allowed to keep Crimea,

which it seized in 2014.

Why should Mr. Musk be expected to foot the bill for U.S. foreign and military aid? Starlink's satellite competitors, including OneWeb and Amazon, aren't. Mr. Musk's tweets on Ukraine are cringe-worthy, but no more so than the now-withdrawn letter by the Congressional Progressive Caucus urging the White House to negotiate directly with Russia to end the war in Ukraine.

The point is that none of the Democrats' objections are principled. They oppose Mr. Musk's takeover for the simple reason that they want to silence conservative voices and contrarian views on subjects such as climate and Covid. Twitter's deposed executives succeeded at this even as they failed to make money for investors.

Twitter has posted a net loss every year since going public in 2013, save 2018 and 2019. Last year it generated a mere \$4.5 billion in advertising revenue compared with Alphabet's \$210 billion and Amazon's \$31 billion. Unlike other large tech companies, it has failed to develop beyond its core competency. Mr. Musk has to clean house to prevent it from burning down.

Democrats are rooting for Mr. Musk to fail. But unfortunately for them, he doesn't appear to suffer from the self-destructive tendencies of Donald Trump.

GOP Outsiders Dominate 2022 Midterms

By Gregg Opelka

If the "red wave" of recent predictions comes to fruition on Tuesday, the 2022 midterms should be called the Inside-Out Election, because Republicans will have put so many outsiders in and turned so many insiders out.

I'm old enough to remember the Beatles appearing on "The Ed Sullivan Show" and I can't remember an election in which so many political newcomers had a serious shot at taking out established politicians of the opposite party.

Here's the short list among the Senate races: J.D. Vance in Ohio, Herschel Walker in Georgia, Mehmet Oz in Pennsylvania, Blake Masters in Arizona, Don Bolduc in New Hampshire, Joe O'Dea in Colorado and Tiffany Smiley in Washington. They are, respectively, a venture capitalist/author, an ex-football star, a doctor/television celebrity, another venture capitalist, a retired Army general, a construction company CEO and a nurse. They're all complete outsiders with no political experience. Their Democratic opponents, except for Pennsylvania's

John Fetterman, on the other hand are all incumbent senators or representatives. Even so, Mr. Fetterman is no rookie, having served as a small-town mayor before becoming lieutenant governor.

One exception is Nevada's Adam Laxalt, the grandson of a governor and senator who served a term as attorney general and lost his own bid for governor in 2018. The GOP also has a few veteran politicians

Almost no Republicans in competitive Senate races have ever held office.

fighting to retain their Senate seats. Chuck Grassley of Iowa, who's been in public office nearly 64 years, faces the first serious threat to his incumbency in decades. Ron Johnson, a businessman before being elected to the Senate in 2010, hasn't exactly had a cakewalk in Wisconsin, though he appears to be pulling away from his challenger. But what is remarkable is both the number of first-time Republican politicians

running and, more astounding, how well they are doing.

The MVP among the GOP governor candidates is undeniably Kari Lake in Arizona, who during her run has given a master class in how to handle a recalcitrant media with aplomb. Not since Joan Rivers has a woman delivered so many zingers with a smile. President Trump provided the blueprint. The first political outsider in at least a century to seek and win the presidency showed how best to deal with the press—never stop hitting back. Like Mr. Trump, Ms. Lake also benefited from years in front of a TV camera. She was a news anchor in the Grand Canyon State for more than 20 years.

They used to run musical revues on Broadway decades ago with the same title, only changing the year. They were called "New Faces of 1934," "New Faces of 1936," "New Faces of 1943," etc. Welcome to New Faces of 2022. Something tells me we're going to be seeing a lot of them.

Mr. Opelka is a musical-theater composer-lyricist.

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WORLD NEWS

Religious Zionism Flexes Its Muscles

Ultrnationalist movement could play a central role in Israel's next government

KIRYAT ARBA, West Bank—Military towers loom over the highway leading to far-right lawmaker Itamar Ben-Gvir's hometown, a settlement next to the Palestinian city of Hebron. Residents walk around with pistols strapped to their thighs, just beside their zizit, the ritual tassels mandated by Jewish law, as clusters of children play in the streets.

By Dov Lieber,
Shayndi Raice
and Aaron Boxerman

Once largely confined to the fringes of Israeli society, an ultranationalist political outlook forged in Jewish West Bank settlements like Kiryat Arba has now been thrust to the center of Israeli public life by Mr. Ben-Gvir's success in last week's election. The Religious Zionism ticket co-led by Mr. Ben-Gvir won 14 seats in the 120-seat Parliament, or Knesset, making it the third-largest party in Israel.

Surging popularity

Mr. Ben-Gvir's surging popularity ensured that Benjamin Netanyahu's bloc won an outright victory, paving the way for talks that began Sunday to form what political analysts say would be Israel's most right-wing and religious government in its history. Although Mr. Netanyahu's Likud party is largely secular, all his political allies come from religious parties, with the Religious Zionist alliance being the largest.

The prospect that Mr. Ben-Gvir, who was convicted in 2007 of incitement to racism and belonging to a terrorist organization, could serve in a high government position shows the growing political strength of Israel's religious ultranationalist Jews, many of whom view the modern state of Israel as God's fulfillment of his



Orthodox Jewish students in a dining hall at a yeshiva in Kiryat Arba, one of the West Bank settlements where the movement was forged.

biblical promise to return the Jewish people to their land.

"An Arab in Israel that has nationalist ambitions, he has no room in this land," said Religious Zionism voter Rabbi Noam Woldman, who leads Kiryat Arba's religious seminary where young men can split their mandatory army service between studying Torah and serving in the military. "This is the land that was given to the people of Israel."

Mr. Ben-Gvir said his success showed that his message resonated with all types of Israelis.

"We represent everyone: secular and religious, ultra-orthodox and traditional. Everyone, everyone wants real change," he told a celebratory crowd as election results came in Tuesday night. "They want to walk safely in the streets, not to tie the hands of our soldiers and police."

The ultranationalists could

soon have the opportunity to advance ideas once seen as extreme but now in Israel's mainstream: annexing parts of the occupied West Bank, asserting a stronger Jewish presence at Jerusalem's contested holy sites and dramatically expanding Israeli settlements across the West Bank. Mr. Ben-Gvir and many of his followers believe that Palestinians in the West Bank should be subjects of the state of Israel without national voting rights.

Anti-Arab sentiment

Mr. Ben-Gvir rode a wave of anti-Arab sentiment after violence between Arab citizens of Israel and Jews erupted in the streets of Israel last May 2021. The neighbor-on-neighbor incidents left many Jews convinced that drastic action needed to be taken to quell violence coming from Arab communities and neighborhoods.

Half of Jewish Israelis said they think Jews and Arabs should live separately in a poll taken in August 2021 by the Israel Democracy Institute, up from 41.5% in 2020. In the same 2021 poll, 20% of Arab respondents said they thought Jews and Arabs should live separately.

Those ethnic riots last spring, "to some people here in Israel changed the paradigm about what needs to be done," said Yedidia Stern, president of the Jewish People Policy Institute, a Jerusalem-based think tank. "They started to feel insecure in their cities not because people were coming from outside, but [because of Arab] Israeli citizens."

Political analysts say Mr. Ben-Gvir got strong support because he avoided using the incendiary religious language that only resonated with a core group of ideologues.

Mr. Ben-Gvir's supporters were known to chant "death to Arabs"—a phrase that in recent years has become common to hear from youth at far-right rallies—but he has since asked them to chant "death to terrorists" instead. And Mr. Ben-Gvir talked about the safety of Jews and their right to defend themselves, arguing that the only way to secure a Jewish state was to dominate Arabs politically.

"The religious Zionist movement stopped using religious language for their politics," said Donniel Hartman, president of the Shalom Hartman Institute, a Jerusalem-based research organization. But their core religious ideology remains the same, he said.

"The core people who voted for them see maintaining Jewish control of Israel, settling all of the land of Israel and protecting the rights of the

Jewish people as essential and core to their Judaism and nationalism."

Ideological roots

Religious Zionism was one of several movements that came out of a rise in Jewish nationalism in the 19th century in response to anti-Semitism in Europe. Many religious Jews consider themselves to be religious Zionists, and a large number believe that Israel's creation represents the heralding of a Messianic era.

The political birthplace for Mr. Ben-Gvir's movement is in the Jewish settlements like Kiryat Arba that populate the West Bank. These towns are a source of tension between Jewish residents and their Palestinian neighbors, who live under Israel's military rule. Violence between the two groups has risen this year.

"If we believe that the Torah is eternal, then Hebron belongs to the people of Israel. It doesn't belong to them," said Sara Nachshon, as the Muslim call to prayer echoed through her home.

Mr. Ben-Gvir's ideological roots come from the teachings of an American-born rabbi, the late Meir Kahane, who believed in overthrowing the democratic Jewish state in favor of a theocracy that put the rights of Jews above all others. Mr. Kahane's political party, Kach, was banned from the Knesset in 1988 for racism. Mr. Ben-Gvir says he has distanced himself from some of Mr. Kahane's most extreme views but that he still admires him.

Shaul Magid, a professor of Jewish Studies at Dartmouth College who wrote a book on Mr. Kahane, said Mr. Ben-Gvir is different from Mr. Kahane because he doesn't want to overthrow the state but rather seeks to change it from within.

"The better way is to slowly infiltrate into the apparatus of the state and slowly begin to transform it through this hypernationalism, which a lot of Israelis will be on board with," he said. "The religious piece will come afterward."

Bridge Collapse Casts Harsh Spotlight On Construction Practices in India

By KRISHNA POKHAREL
AND TRIPTI LAHIRI

Prakash Parmar was supposed to meet a prospective bride for his brother last Sunday in his hometown of Morbi in northwestern India. But when those plans were postponed, he, his brother and his sister decided to visit the town's star attraction: a colonial-era suspension bridge.

The bridge had reopened days earlier after being closed for months for repairs, just in time for the first major holiday season—celebrations of Diwali and the new year in the state of Gujarat—without Covid-19 restrictions. Three young cousins and a neighbor joined them.

Of the seven-person group that embarked on that outing, only two—Mr. Parmar, 24, and his younger sister—survived.

When the bridge, which was more than 130 years old, collapsed around 6:30 p.m. that evening, Mr. Parmar's sister, brother, cousins and a neighbor were among the hundreds of people who plunged into the polluted waters of the Machchhu River about 30 feet below. At least 135 were killed. Navy divers and scores of other rescue workers pulled another 170 out of the river.

"Ever since my birth, I have seen the Jhulta Pul, the swinging bridge," said Mr. Parmar, using its local name. "I didn't imagine even once that it could collapse."

Nine people have been arrested as part of the police investigation into the repair of the bridge and overcrowding that day, under Indian criminal provisions similar to manslaughter. They include two employees of Oreva Group, which was contracted to repair the bridge, two men to whom Oreva outsourced repair work, and security and ticket staff.

The bridge reopened to the public without a safety inspection, police investigating the collapse have said.

As more details have emerged of lapses in the bridge's renovation, Mr. Parmar's shock has been accom-



Rescue efforts continued for several days after the collapse of the bridge in India's Gujarat state.

panied by anger.

"I feel looted," said Mr. Parmar. "My brother is dead. My aunt's house is desolate."

In March, the district of Morbi gave the contract to repair the bridge to Oreva, a Gujarat-based clock maker founded in 1971 that was well-respected in the area. Also called Ajanta Manufacturing Pvt. Ltd., the company had

The bridge reopened to the public without a safety inspection, police have said.

branched into other home appliances, including energy-saving bulbs. Recently, it began developing electric bikes.

The company didn't have construction experience, police investigating the case have said.

Oreva had acknowledged that it didn't have the expertise to repair the bridge on its own. At a ribbon-cutting on Oct. 24, two days before the bridge reopened to the public,

Jaysukh Patel, the company's managing director, said it had sought to partner with companies specialized in such bridge work to undertake the repairs.

Oreva didn't respond to multiple requests for comment.

Local authorities had entrusted Oreva in 2007 with repairing damage to the bridge that resulted from an earthquake. It partnered with a local company to undertake the works. When authorities asked Oreva to repair the bridge earlier this year, the company turned to the firm, Devprakash Fabrications, again, said Mr. Patel at the Oct. 24 event.

It couldn't be determined how authorities chose Oreva. The head of the local municipal authority, the agency in charge of awarding the contract, has been questioned by the police. He hasn't been arrested or charged. He didn't respond to requests for comment.

Police have said in a local court that Devprakash Fabrications wasn't qualified to carry out the repairs.

A state forensic lab found that the renovation put four-layered aluminum sheeting on

the floor of the bridge, making it heavier, according to Morbi district public prosecutor H.S. Panchal, citing evidence police provided in court. However, the bridge's cables that had to bear that weight weren't changed, the lab report said.

Both partners of Devprakash Fabrications have been arrested on charges that are, in Indian law, similar to manslaughter in the U.S. No registered address or phone numbers could be found for the company. It couldn't be determined if the two partners have legal representation.

On the eve of the bridge's reopening, Mr. Patel, Oreva's managing director, told reporters that the bridge had been "100% renovated" for about \$240,000. The completed repairs would keep the bridge in good condition for a decade, the executive added.

It couldn't be determined how many people the 750-foot-long bridge could safely carry at one time. The total dead and rescued is just over 300. The prosecutor, Mr. Panchal, said the bridge's load-bearing capacity wasn't assessed before it reopened to the public on Oct. 26.

WORLD WATCH

CHINA

Officials Investigate Central Bank Deputy

China's top anticorruption agency is investigating a deputy governor of the People's Bank of China, in a move that signals tighter scrutiny of the nation's central bank after the conclusion of last month's Communist Party conclave at which Xi Jinping secured a third term as leader.

The investigation into Fan Yifei for "suspected serious violations of laws and discipline" was announced Saturday by the anticorruption agency, the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection.

Mr. Fan oversaw payments and financial technology at the People's Bank of China. He rose through the ranks of state-controlled China Construction Bank Corp., where he worked under Wang Qishan, China's anticorruption czar during Mr. Xi's first term from 2012 to 2017, as well as a vice president. The Wall Street Journal reported last month that Mr. Xi was using anticorruption probes to target close associates of Mr. Wang.

—Sha Hua

SYRIA

Government Targets Tent Settlements

Syrian government forces shelled tent settlements housing families displaced by the country's conflict in the rebel-held northwest early Sunday, killing at least 10 people and wounding dozens, opposition war monitors and first responders said.



Syrian opposition fighters in Idlib province fired at pro-government forces Sunday in retaliation for deadly shelling.

The shelling was the latest violation of a truce reached between Russia and Turkey in March 2020 that ended a Russian-backed government offensive on Idlib province, the last major rebel-held stronghold in Syria. The truce has been repeatedly violated over the past two years.

The pro-government Sham FM radio station said Syrian government forces shelled positions of al-Qaida-linked Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, the most powerful militant group in Idlib. It said Syrian and Russian warplanes also attacked the areas.

Syria's conflict broke out in March 2011 and has left hundreds of thousands dead, displaced half the country's pre-war population of 23 million and left large parts of Syria destroyed.

—Associated Press

TANZANIA

Plane Crashes Into Lake Victoria

A plane crashed into Lake Victoria as it approached an airport in Tanzania on Sunday morning, killing 19 people on board, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said.

The death toll was an increase from three dead announced earlier. Local authorities said earlier Sunday that 26 of the 43 people on the Precision Air flight from the city of Dar es Salaam were taken to a hospital. It wasn't clear whether the new death toll included people who died at the hospital. Precision Air is a Tanzanian airline.

—Associated Press

BUSINESS & FINANCE

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Monday, November 7, 2022 | B1

Last Week: S&P 3770.55 ▼ 3.35% S&P FIN ▼ 0.83% S&P IT ▼ 6.89% DJ TRANS ▼ 0.74% WSJ \$IDX ▼ 0.18% 2-YR. TREAS. yield 4.652% NIKKEI 27199.74 ▲ 0.35% See more at WSJ.com/Markets

Financing Dries Up on Wall Street

Mergers, stock and bond offerings slowed in October to lowest level in over a decade

By MATT WIRZ

U.S. mergers and acquisitions dropped 43% in recent months and initial public offerings of stock plummeted to their lowest level in more than a decade as the Federal Reserve's rate increases siphoned capital out of the markets.

Autumn is usually one of the busiest times of the year in finance, but new stock sales, debt raises and corporate mergers all slowed to a trickle in recent weeks. The supply of cash that fuels such deals is evaporating and the slowdown likely is here to stay, bankers, investors and corporate lawyers say.

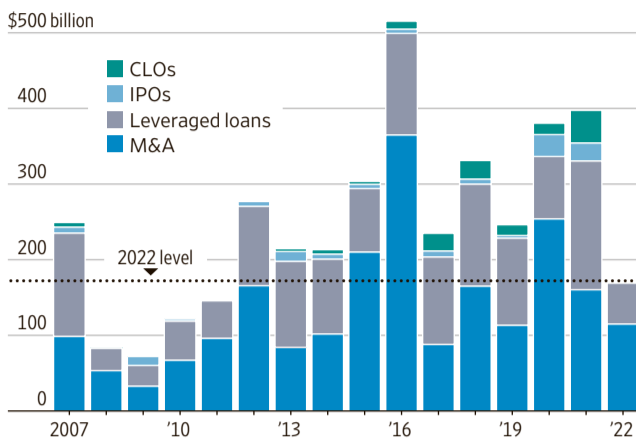
Markets are stalling because

the price of borrowed money is rising as the Federal Reserve raises interest rates to combat inflation. The policy has yet to damp consumer spending. But it is punishing U.S. companies that have accumulated a debt mountain exceeding \$10 trillion, much of it in the past decade when the Fed kept interest rates near zero.

North American companies will have to come up with at least \$200 billion in 2022 and 2023 to cover rising interest expenses, according to a Wall Street Journal analysis of data from Fitch Ratings of the companies it rates. Borrowing costs could remain elevated for years if high inflation persists, splitting American corporations into two camps: those that can cut debt and survive on their own earnings, and those that can't.

The Fed is the top thing many corporate clients want to talk about, said Stephan Feldgo-

Capital markets activity in October of each year



Source: Dealogic

ise, co-head of Goldman Sachs Group Inc.'s mergers-and-acquisitions team. "Given the significant changes, we're spending a lot of time just talking about what is going on and how it impacts their business."

Ford Motor Co. has a \$53

billion market value and reported higher sales in an earnings report last week. Still, "borrowing costs were higher, which we haven't been able to fully pass on to customers," Marion Harris, the head of Ford's lending arm, told ana-

lysts on a conference call last week. The lending division cut its guidance for 2022 earnings by about 10%, in part because of higher rates.

Hospital chain Community Health Systems Inc. bought back \$267 million of bonds recently, but earnings are falling faster than it can slash its \$12 billion debt load. "Elevated contract labor and wage inflation continue to affect our...performance," Chief Financial Officer Kevin Hammons said on the company's earnings call last month. The company's bonds have dropped about 35% since September to 42 cents on the dollar, reflecting uncertainty about its financial health.

Some are capitalizing on the havoc.

Apollo Global Management Inc. spent more than \$1 billion in October buying investment-grade asset-backed debt that sold off amid market turmoil, *Please turn to page B7*

Apple Warns on iPhone Shipments

By TIM HIGGINS

Apple Inc. warned shipments of its high-end iPhone models would be hindered amid Covid-19 restrictions at one of its major suppliers in China, an inopportune disruption as the company enters its all-important holiday shopping season.

The Cupertino, Calif., tech giant on Sunday said the assembly factory in Zhengzhou is operating but at reduced capacity.

"We now expect lower iPhone 14 Pro and iPhone 14 Pro Max shipments than we previously anticipated and customers will experience longer wait times to receive their new products," the company said.

Also Sunday, Apple supplier Foxconn Technology Group said it is revising down its outlook for the fourth quarter due to the pandemic's impact on operations at its Zhengzhou site in central China, the world's biggest assembly site for iPhones. The company entered a weeklong lockdown at its Zhengzhou complex after battling a Covid-19 outbreak *Please turn to page B2*

Frackers Say Oil Output Slows In Shale Patch

By BENOÎT MORENNE AND COLLIN EATON

Despite an extended streak of strong profits, shale companies are slowing their oil-field activity, keeping U.S. oil production roughly flat and offering little relief for tight global markets.

What was expected to be a banner year for U.S. oil production has failed to materialize as creeping inflation-related costs, supply-chain snarls and disappointing well performance for some companies have coalesced to limit domestic output, executives and analysts said.

Global oil prices averaged about \$100 a barrel in the third quarter, according to Bank of Nova Scotia, and in past years such prices prompted increased shale production. This time, companies like ConocoPhillips, Pioneer Natural Resources Co. and Devon Energy Corp. are focused on profits instead of drill-

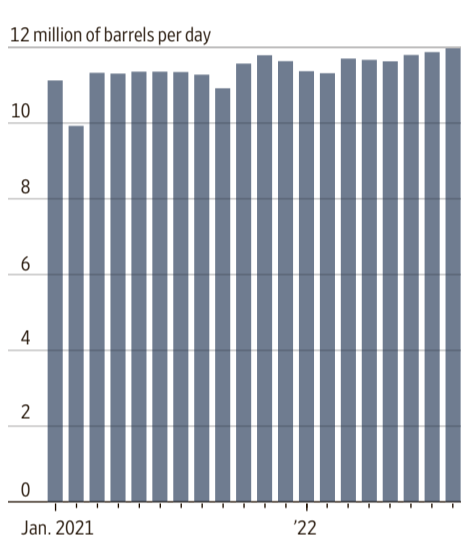
ing and say there are constraints to growth.

ConocoPhillips on Thursday reported a profit of \$4.5 billion, almost double the same period last year. Pioneer recently said it netted about \$2 billion, while Exxon Mobil Corp. posted a record profit of almost \$20 billion, and Chevron Corp. said it earned its second-largest quarterly profit, of \$11.2 billion.

Many of the companies simultaneously lowered their projections for oil production.

Pioneer said its wells in the Permian Basin of West Texas and New Mexico—the most active U.S. oil field—this year produced less oil than expected and that it was reshuffling its portfolio to generate higher returns starting in 2023. The company on average produced 352,421 barrels of oil a day in the third quarter, a slight decline from the previous quarter, it said. *Please turn to page B2*

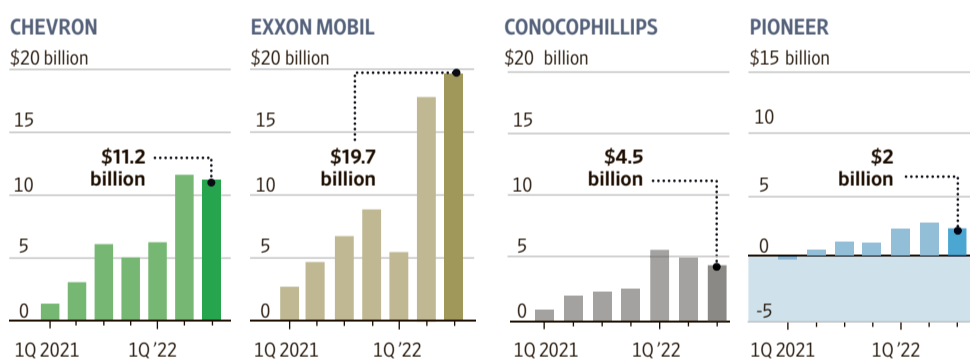
Oil production since 2021



Brent crude prices this year



Quarterly net profit and loss since 2021



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration (production); FactSet (crude prices); S&P Capital IQ; the companies (quarterly profit)

Walgreens Nears Deal For Urgent Care Firm

By LAURA COOPER

A unit of Walgreens Boots Alliance Inc. is nearing a deal to combine with a big owner of medical practices and urgent-care centers in a transaction valued at roughly \$9 billion including debt, people familiar with the matter said.

The potential deal is among a string of acquisitions by big consumer-focused companies aiming to delve deeper into medical care.

The drugstore giant's primary-care-center subsidiary, Village Practice Management, would combine with Summit Health, the parent company of CityMD urgent-care centers, in an agreement that could be reached as early as Monday, the people said.

Health insurer Cigna Corp. will invest in the combined company, the people said.

There is no guarantee the parties will reach a deal, the people cautioned, noting that they are still hammering out details of an agreement. *Please turn to page B2*

Hedging Against Currencies Pays Off for ETFs

By KAREN LANGLEY

The dollar's recent rise has heightened the complexity of buying overseas stocks for investors used to focusing on metrics like company earnings and share-price valuations.

When U.S.-based investors hold international equities, their performance is driven by fluctuations in exchange rates as well as the perfor-

mance of the underlying company shares. In periods like this year when the greenback is strengthening, that dynamic eats away at returns as the other currency is traded for fewer dollars.

Investors can try to sidestep the moves in foreign-exchange markets by choosing stock funds that hedge currency exposure. That approach has paid off as the dollar has soared in 2022.

Shares of the unhedged iShares MSCI Japan exchange-traded fund, for example, have slumped 24% this year, lagging far behind the 1.3% slip in shares of the iShares Currency Hedged MSCI Japan exchange-traded fund.

An unhedged iShares ETF focused on eurozone stocks, meanwhile, has seen its shares decline 26% this year, while shares of its currency-

hedged counterpart have fallen 15%. Shares of the currency-hedged version of a fund targeting U.K. stocks are up 4.7% for the year, easily beating the 13% slide in shares of a U.K. equity fund that doesn't protect against currency moves.

"It really comes down to an investor's view on the dollar," said Evan Brown, portfolio manager and head of multiasset strategy at UBS Asset

Management. "When you just buy an international ETF that is unhedged, you're getting exposure not only to that local equity market but also to the foreign exchange."

The Federal Reserve's efforts to tame inflation through an aggressive campaign of interest-rate increases have fueled the dollar's rise. The WSJ Dollar Index, which measures the *Please turn to page B2*

INSIDE



BUSINESS NEWS

Americans' travel and entertainment appetite remains strong before the holidays. B3



HEARD ON THE STREET

New releases should power a revival at movie theaters. B11

Amazon Sweetens Prime Offerings as Growth Stalls

By SEBASTIAN HERRERA

Amazon.com Inc.'s move to vastly expand its music catalog to Prime members aims to give the popular subscription program a boost just as rivals such as Walmart Inc. have achieved speedier delivery times and added new features to subscriptions.

The technology giant revealed this past week that it is expanding the free tier of its music-streaming service, Amazon Music, to include tens of millions more songs, ad-free, for Prime subscribers.

Amazon's new offering undercuts music-streaming rivals Spotify Technology SA and Apple Inc. and signals the company's growing appetite to find its next Prime hit as the service matures and while other subscription services grow. Prime is one of the great pillars of success at Amazon, company executives have said, and Amazon expects to keep it that way.



The expansion of the music-streaming service aims to undercut rivals and find a new hit for Prime.

"What else can you sell customers that others can't sell them? That's where their new frontier will be," said Michael Levin, co-founder of research firm Consumer Intelligence Research Partners LLC, which studies Prime memberships.

Jamil Ghani, vice president of Amazon Prime, said the company is encouraged by high retention rates for the service and that it sees strong growth among new users, especially among students. Mr. Ghani declined to provide ex-

act figures.

"We continue to invest in Prime. Music is only the latest example of continued investment," Mr. Ghani said. "The No. 1 thing we heard from members was, 'I want more music.' So we figured out in the service, with

the publishers, how to make that possible."

The company's stock initially fell more than 4% after its announcement Tuesday, in part because of investors' concerns over losing the revenue that Amazon's music service brought in and because of higher payments to record labels.

Most of Amazon's more than 200 million Prime customers are drawn to it because of its free and fast shipping benefit. That convenience has been the bedrock of Prime's growth and enabled the company to invest in other Prime services. Retention has also been high. Roughly 97% of current Prime customers say they are likely to renew, according to a recent survey by Consumer Intelligence Research Partners.

Amazon has lost some of that advantage in recent years. Competitors from Walmart to small outlets have started their own fast-shipping service. *Please turn to page B2*

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Apple Warns on Shipments

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that lasted several weeks. Foxconn attempted to create a closed-loop system to stop the spread of Covid-19, largely shutting off huge numbers of workers from the outside world and confining them to their homes and specific parts of the factory. Some refused to return to the factory, worried about the spread of the disease. Some workers escaped from the site. The Zhengzhou facility would normally produce more than 80% of the iPhone 14 base models and 85% of the high-end Pro models, according to Counterpoint Research. On Sunday, Apple said it continued to see strong de-

mand for the high-end iPhones and that it was making the health and safety of the workers in its supply chain a priority. "We are working closely with our supplier to return to normal production levels while ensuring the health and safety of every worker," Apple said. On its website, Foxconn said it is working with the government "in concerted efforts to stamp out the pandemic and resume production to its full capacity as quickly as possible." The disruption could rank as the biggest Covid-era blow to Apple, which has been mostly able to navigate around the kinds of punishing supply-chain disruptions that have crippled rivals and other industries. The iPhone company has churned out record profits due to iPhone sales during the past two years, helping fuel investor enthusiasm and pushing the company's stock to new highs, though those gains have retreated in recent months.

Amazon Sweetens Prime

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vices, making Prime's delivery perks less of a novelty. Annual growth in Prime subscriptions in the U.S., once nearly 20%, will slow to 2% by 2025, Insider Intelligence said. Mr. Ghani, the Prime vice president, said Amazon welcomes other choices for customers because it helps the company focus on which needs customers have and how it can add value to Prime. "What is transformational and eye-opening today becomes second nature tomorrow," Mr. Ghani said. Amazon counters that, he said, by trying to have a consistent pipeline of new services for Prime. Walmart is estimated to have around 16 million members for its Walmart+ service, according to a survey by Morgan Stanley in May, and the company said this summer it had reached a deal to offer the Paramount+ streaming service to Walmart+ members. While the service continues to grow quickly, Walmart's retention rate is slightly lower than Amazon's, with about 93% of Walmart+ members saying they are likely to renew, Consumer Intelligence Research Partners said. Walt Disney Co. plans to ex-



Amazon's new offering signals the company's growing appetite to find its next Prime hit.

pand its Disney+ app to include theme park and merchandise promotions. Apple in 2020 launched Apple One, which includes Apple Music, Apple TV+, Apple Arcade and 50 gigabytes of iCloud storage for \$16.95 a month. An estimated five million people in the U.S. subscribe to Apple One, according to data firm Antenna. Disney, meanwhile, has about 221 million subscribers across its streaming platforms, which also includes ESPN+ and Hulu, according to the company. Subscription services have cost consumers more lately. Apple recently raised the price of Apple Music to \$10.99. Netflix Inc. earlier this year raised its basic, ad-free plan to \$9.99 a month, up from \$8.99. Disney plans to raise its monthly subscription cost to \$10.99

starting in December. Amazon, meanwhile, has been slow to raise the cost of Prime but did so in March, when it bumped the yearly cost to \$139 from \$119, four years after last raising the price. Amazon has sought to find new features that could become part of the subscription's main offerings alongside fast delivery and its Prime Video streaming platform. The company has spent billions to make delivery available for one day or less on millions of products, and it has also spent heavily on Prime Video with investments such as the National Football League's "Thursday Night Football" and its recently released "Lord of the Rings" series. Last week, Amazon said the

show, which cost about \$1 billion to make for the first season, was watched by over 25 million viewers globally on its first day and has driven more Prime sign-ups than any other Amazon original program. Amazon regularly tests products and features that it might never keep long term. The company has shown this strategy with its devices lineup and in physical retail spaces. Amazon Music may represent a growth area for Prime, but the company will have to improve demand even among its own customers. Just over 40% of Amazon consumers use Spotify's free and paid services, compared with about 25% who use Amazon Music's services, according to Consumer Intelligence Research Partners.

Production Slows in Shale Patch

Continued from page B1
ConocoPhillips previously said overall U.S. oil production growth could rise 900,000 barrels a day this year. But spokesman Dennis Nuss said U.S. oil output growth is coming in lower than it anticipated for this year because of supply-chain bottlenecks and labor shortages. "Rapidly escalating costs combined with extremely tight supply are limiting the pace of industrywide production growth," said Ryan Lance, chief executive of ConocoPhillips. The U.S. shale boom that upset the world's oil hegemony is losing steam just as global markets need the producers to pump more to keep up with a recovery in demand. The Biden administration has urged drillers to pick up their pace, help ease high pump prices and invest profits in growth instead of increasing shareholder dividends and buybacks. Lofty projections by the federal government and others for robust U.S. oil production growth in 2022 are proving

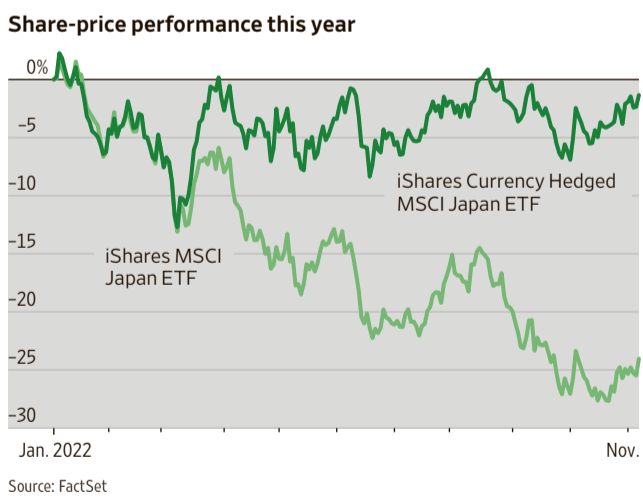
overly optimistic, and doubts are emerging about how many barrels of oil shale drillers can add next year. In the contiguous U.S., oil production through August increased 3% since December, up 288,000 barrels a day to 9.77 million, according to the Energy Information Administration. It expected total U.S. oil output—including Alaska and the Gulf of Mexico—to hit 12.64 million by December, growing more than 1 million barrels a day from the same month a year earlier. It has since lowered its projection almost 500,000 barrels a day. Even Chevron and Exxon, the largest U.S. oil companies that enjoy scale and logistical advantages, came in on the low side of their shale production targets. Exxon recently said its oil-and-gas production in the Permian was projected to rise about 20% over last year's levels, down from its initial target of 25% growth. It attributed the recalibration to weather, facility delays and schedule adjustments. Chevron said its Permian output will come in toward the lower end of its targeted range for the year, around 700,000 barrels a day, as production levels out at a slower pace. Growth forecasts may fall further because many drillers have relied on wells they previously drilled but left offline for future production, drilled but uncompleted wells, or DUCs.

The EIA said companies tapped most of their best DUCs, after they used the wells to save money on drilling as the pandemic led to a historic oil-price collapse. That trend, combined with a gas-pipeline bottleneck in the Permian, is expected to further constrain U.S. oil production growth, the EIA said. Another problem for shale companies is how much oil wells are producing in the Delaware basin, the western half of the Permian that frackers drilled heavily. As the region

less oil and to cost more to bring online. Some companies are saying that well productivity is an issue. Pioneer said it had been disappointed with the performance of its Permian wells this year and was revising its drilling strategy. "Well productivity isn't the same as it was three years ago," said Pioneer Chief Operating Officer Richard Deely. He said oil companies have to figure out how to get more crude out of the ground with new technology over time. Other companies said they were satisfied with their assets' productivity. Devon, which operates mostly in the Delaware basin, said its wells there had seen 11% production growth rate year to date. Slowing production, combined with elevated production costs expected to persist into next year, means producers are unlikely to add much production in 2023, said James West, a senior managing director at investment firm Evercore Inc. Companies this year have had to deal with headwinds brought by inflation, which boosted the price of materials such as steel and casing, and labor shortages, which made hiring crews that drill and frack wells a zero-sum game, executives said. Self-imposed constraints played a role in dull production growth this year, analysts said.

Currency Hedging Pays Off

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greenback against a basket of other currencies, is up 15% this year and in September set a record close in data going back to 2001, according to Dow Jones Market Data. The dollar has gained 14% this year against the euro and 27% against the yen, according to Tullett Prebon. Josh Kutin, head of asset allocation for North America at Columbia Threadneedle Investments, said his team holds a position in the iShares Currency Hedged MSCI EAFE exchange-traded fund. The ETF, which trades under the ticker HEFA, tracks an index of developed-market stocks that uses currency forwards to mitigate currency effects. Shares of the fund have dropped 8.6% this year, compared with a 23% decline for its unhedged equivalent. "We do believe that there is going to be some more dollar strength at least in the short term," Mr. Kutin said. "The currencies which have done well for the last few months really tend to be the currencies which do well in the months ahead." Investors this year have funneled nearly \$622 million



into the HEFA fund while pulling \$1.5 billion from the unhedged version, FactSet data through Thursday show. Other currency-hedging international stock ETFs, by contrast, have suffered outflows this year. Investors have been feeling bearish about equities in general for much of 2022 as central banks around the world lift interest rates, ding the value of companies' future earnings and boosting the yields available outside the stock market. Within stocks, many have viewed the U.S. as a relative haven, as fallout from the Russian invasion of Ukraine threatens the economy in Europe and China employs lockdowns to contain outbreaks of Covid-19. Multifamily office Tiedemann Advisors has had an overweight position in U.S. stocks since spring 2020, betting the economy would be

more robust domestically than in other parts of the world, said Kent Insley, chief investment officer. That stance carries with it a bet that the dollar will strengthen relative to other currencies, he said. But as the Fed eventually nears the point of slowing or even stopping its interest-rate increases, the calculations behind such wagers may change. "We're going to have to rethink just how significant a U.S. bias we want to have when it comes time for the Fed to pause or pivot because the dollar could start depreciating against especially other developed market currencies," Mr. Insley said. Tiedemann uses unhedged formats for some of its international stock positions because it measures its performance against an equities benchmark that doesn't hedge currency, he said.

Walgreens Nears Deals

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Summit Health, which is backed by private-equity firm Warburg Pincus LLC, has more than 370 locations in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Oregon, according to the company's website. Current and former physicians also own a large interest in the business. Village Practice Management, which does business as VillageMD, provides care for patients at free-standing practices and at Walgreens locations, virtually and in the home. Walgreens appears to have pre-empted a sale process for Summit Health that was set to kick off next year, according to the people, who said the company was about to interview banks before it received interest from VillageMD. Summit Health has been backed by Warburg Pincus since 2017, when it took a stake in CityMD, a large chain of New York City urgent-care centers. Since that time, Warburg has helped the company complete multiple transformative acquisitions, including the 2019 merger of CityMD and multi-specialty medical-practice group, Summit Medical Group. —Anna Wilde Mathews contributed to this article.

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BUSINESS NEWS

Travel Boom Continues Into Fall

Industry executives say inflation worries have done little to discourage consumers

By WILL FEUER
AND DENNY JACOB

Americans' appetite for travel and entertainment remains strong ahead of the holidays, as desires to spend on experiences overcome concerns about inflation and the economy.

Those concerns haven't deterred many travel plans, executives at hotel chains, cruise-line operators, vacation-booking platforms and other leisure companies said in recent earnings reports. Hotels have more guests staying, even as room rates climb. Attendance at concerts and live events this summer broke records, **Live Nation Entertainment Inc.** said.

Car-rental companies are seeing demand return from corporate customers. **Royal Caribbean Group** said 2023 cruise bookings made from July through September doubled from the prior quarter. **NBCUniversal's** theme parks are packed. "It kind of defies logic a little bit," said Jeff Shell, chief executive at the **Comcast Corp.** subsidiary.

Lodging executives say the resilience in demand comes as Americans seek out travel and connections in person after spending heavily on goods during the pandemic.

"People at the beginning of the pandemic were spending unlimited amounts on home improvement, on Pelotons, you name it, and the bloom is off that rose entirely," **Hyatt Hotels Corp.** CEO Mark Hoplamazian said. "What they're now spending on is experiences."

Hotels and resorts are benefiting from pent-up demand for vacations, the lifting of international border restrictions



Royal Caribbean Group said that 2023 cruise bookings made from July through September doubled from the previous quarter.

and the return of business travel and conventions, executives said this week.

"The recovery has been much, much steeper than anybody thought," **Hilton Worldwide Holdings Inc.** CEO Chris Nassetta said.

"The demand that we're seeing right now is just more robust than we would have ever thought possible," said Geoffrey Ballotti, CEO of **Wyndham Hotels & Resorts Inc.**, which mostly targets middle-class travelers. He expects that to continue through the holidays.

Pandemic-era trends have helped boost the recovery. Flexible work arrangements have resulted in more travelers booking longer stays, since they can spend part of that time working. **Airbnb Inc.** said stays of 28 days or longer made up around one-fifth of the home-sharing company's

bookings in the third quarter.

"Despite a lot of consumers pulling back on spending, the one area that I haven't seen them pull back on as much is travel," said Brian Chesky, Airbnb's CEO. "They still want to have meaningful experiences."

Host Hotels & Resorts Inc.'s average daily room rate was almost 16% higher than in 2019. CEO Jim Risoleo said in an interview that a new bar has been set and that he plans to drive more price increases as demand keeps building with the recovery in international travel and corporate events.

"If you don't ask for it, you're not going to get it," he said, adding that property managers are confident in their ability to raise prices further without crimping demand.

Axel Hefer, the CEO of the travel-booking platform

Trivago NV, said the company has yet to see any signs of economic pressure weighing on U.S. travelers. European consumers, he said, are booking shorter and cheaper trips, as well as opting for closer destinations to cut down on the price tag.

Lodging executives cited a long-awaited rebound in business travel that began after Labor Day, helping to boost results in September and October. The comeback has shown no signs of slowing, they said.

Live Nation executives said sales for shows next year are up double digits from the same time a year ago. "Ticket buyers continue to prioritize purchasing the best seats available," said Joe Berchtold, president and finance chief.

Momentum in consumer spending is extending to other travel-related expenditures

such as rental cars. **Avis Budget Group Inc.** Chief Finance Officer Brian Choi said demand for the fall is robust and the company is optimistic this will continue through the holiday season.

Sustained spending levels come as the Federal Reserve seeks to tamp down inflation, which remains near its highest levels in four decades. The Fed raised rates by another 0.75 percentage point last Wednesday, its fourth consecutive move of that magnitude.

While that has rattled markets, travelers are booking future trips. **Booking Holdings Inc.** and **Expedia Group Inc.** both expect travel bookings to hold up into the beginning of next year. "So far, there's really no evidence to suggest there is some bigger macroeconomic thing happening,"

Expedia CEO Peter Kern said.

Machinist Union Approves Rail Pact

By ESTHER FUNG

Members of a labor union for machinists narrowly approved an agreement on wages and work conditions with large freight railroads, after rejecting an earlier proposal.

The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers District 19 said Saturday that its members voted to ratify a revised agreement that its leaders had negotiated with the railroads. The IAM members had voted to reject the original contract on Sept. 14, a day before the White House brokered a deal between the companies and three other unions.

Union Pacific Corp., **CSX Corp.** and other U.S. freight railroads have been in negotiations with a dozen labor unions representing about 115,000 workers. President Biden appointed an emergency panel over the summer to propose a compromise and avert the first national strike in two decades.

So far, members at seven unions, including IAM, have ratified the deal but two others haven't. The unions have agreed to standstill agreements that would delay any strike until other unions have cast their votes.

Two large unions, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen as well as the transportation division of the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers, are still in the process of voting. They are expected to announce results around Nov. 21.

—Paul Berger
contributed to this article.

Market Turmoil Helps Push Berkshire to Post a Loss

By AKANE OTANI

Warren Buffett's **Berkshire Hathaway Inc.** swung to a loss in the third quarter as a volatile stock market and losses from insurance underwriting offset gains in its manufacturing, service and retail businesses.

The Omaha, Neb., company reported a net loss of \$2.69 billion, or \$1,832 a class A share equivalent, versus a year-earlier profit of \$10.34 billion, or \$6,882 a share.

Operating earnings, which exclude some investment results, rose to \$776 billion from \$6.47 billion.

Mr. Buffett, Berkshire's chief executive and chairman, has said he prefers that investors look at the company's operating earnings, since Berkshire's large stock investments can cause its net income

or loss to swing significantly from quarter to quarter, even if its underlying businesses are doing well.

Although some of Berkshire's biggest stockholdings rose in the third quarter, the value of its overall portfolio fell alongside the broader market, driving its net loss.

"The amount of investment gains/losses in any given quarter is usually meaningless," and can be "extremely misleading to investors who have little or no knowledge of accounting rules," Berkshire said in a statement accompanying its results.

Berkshire owns a variety of businesses spanning industries across America, including insurance company Geico, freight railroad operator BNSF Railway and home builder

Clayton Homes. That makes its earnings of special interest to investors looking for insights on the health of the American economy.

Like many companies, Berkshire was affected by spiking inflation in the third quarter, as well as prolonged disruptions to the supply chain.

BNSF, for instance, was able to charge customers more per railroad car loaded but was pinched by higher costs for fuel and lower overall freight volumes, dragging its after-tax earnings down 6.2% in the third quarter.

"We continue to experience the negative effects of higher materials, freight, labor and other input costs," Berkshire said.

Berkshire's insurance underwriting business took a \$2.7 billion hit after Hurricane Ian.

B u t

Berkshire's utilities and energy unit posted better results, thanks to gains in its natural-gas-pipeline business and electrical distribution company, Northern Powergrid.

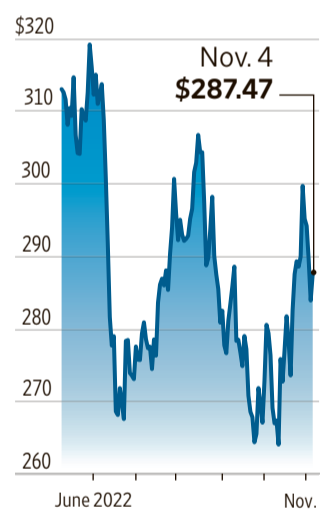
Elevated prices for energy have helped boost profits at oil, gas and utility companies this year.

A tight housing market also helped lift results at Berkshire's home-construction-related businesses, which include paint company Benjamin Moore, flooring company Shaw Industries and bricks and masonry company Acme Building Brands.

With mortgage rates surging as the Federal Reserve attempts to rein in inflation with interest-rate increases, and home prices beginning to decline, Berkshire said it is likely demand for its home-related businesses and services will wane from current levels.

Overall, Berkshire's manufacturing, service and retail

Berkshire Hathaway Inc. C1B



Source: FactSet

businesses reported earnings grew 20% in the third quarter.

Meanwhile, Berkshire continued deploying cash for stock investments and buybacks. The company spent \$1.05 billion on stock buybacks in the third quarter, in line

with its total three months earlier but well below its pace of buybacks in 2021.

Berkshire, which largely bought back its own shares in 2021, has pivoted this year to investing in other companies—buying millions more shares of **Chevron Corp.** and becoming **Occidental Petroleum Corp.**'s single biggest shareholder.

Energy stocks have been by far the best performers in the stock market this year, while Berkshire's interest in Occidental has propelled the stock to the top of the leaderboard in the S&P 500. It has more than doubled in 2022.

Berkshire still had a big cash pile at the end of the quarter.

The company reported having cash and cash equivalents of \$109 billion at the end of September, which was up slightly from \$105.4 billion in the second quarter.

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Startups Aim to Snap Up Laid-Off Tech Workers

Early-stage companies, mostly spared the woes of the giants, set sights on new blood

By ANGUS LOTEN

Flush with investor capital, technology startups plan to scoop up software developers, engineers and marketers flooding the labor market following job cuts at **Twitter Inc.**, **Lyft Inc.** and other large tech employers.

Kathy Zhu said she is lining up candidates for engineering, customer service and other roles at **Streamline AI**, the two-year-old tech startup she co-founded. They include prospects from “two or three companies that just had big layoffs,” she said.

“There’s an abundance of talent right now, because of these layoffs,” Ms. Zhu said. “A few years ago, there was no way we could’ve attracted candidates like this.”

Millbrae, Calif.-based Streamline AI, which is developing a workflow-automation platform for corporate legal teams, in September closed a \$3 million seed-funding round led by Oceans Ventures. Streamline AI has seven employees and hopes to add at least three more by the end of the year, and more positions early next year, Ms. Zhu said.

“There are people on LinkedIn saying things like, ‘I’ve just been laid off at Lyft and looking for work,’” she said.

Lyft, a ride-hailing company, on Thursday said it would cut nearly 700 jobs, or roughly 13% of its staff. Online payments processor Stripe Inc. also announced job cuts Thursday, reducing its staff by some 1,000 positions to roughly 7,000.

Twitter began laying off employees on Friday, roughly



Twitter began laying off employees on Friday, roughly a week after Elon Musk acquired it.

a week after billionaire Elon Musk acquired the social-media giant.

Seed and early-stage tech startups, companies that often haven’t brought their products or services to market, have largely been spared the impact of higher interest rates, persistent inflation and disrupted supply chains roiling public technology companies.

With more mature startups in a holding pattern—wary of public market debuts or discount funding rounds—many venture-capital investors are shifting their focus to nascent companies, which aren’t expected to generate returns on investment for another seven to eight years, according to analysts.

Amid sharp declines in funding for later-stage startups, the median deal size for new U.S. startups has held roughly steady this year from 2021 at \$2.8 million, with a median valuation of \$10.5 million, according to PitchBook Data Inc. Deal sizes and valuations for seed startups hit re-

cord highs in the third quarter, the market analytics firm said.

“After years of early-stage companies facing challenges to compete in a very tight and expensive labor market, we are seeing a shift and these companies are in a great position to hire strong talent,” said Maëlle Gavet, CEO of Techstars, which operates accelerator programs and services for new startups.

Arya, a two-year-old automated compensation management startup in New York, aims to use funds from a \$3.3 million seed round in May to hire at least four new employees by the end of the year, said founder and CEO Kunal Sarda.

“We’re seeing candidates come through from the FAANGS of the world that we would never have seen before,” Mr. Sarda said, referring to the stock-trading acronym for Meta Platforms Inc.’s Facebook, Amazon.com Inc., Apple Inc., Netflix Inc. and Alphabet Inc.’s Google.

Mr. Sarda said recently laid

off tech-sector workers make up about half of the applicants he is considering hiring as product designers, engineers, and sales and data analytics staff.

Still, a growing pool of talent isn’t likely to lead to a hiring boom by startups, said Kyle Stanford, a senior analyst at PitchBook.

“Even well-funded young companies will be more strategic in their hiring practices than we would have seen a year ago,” Mr. Stanford said.

Large tech companies cutting jobs because of the souring economic climate “should be a warning to small companies to preserve runway and opt for a sustainable growth, if growth is still possible,” he added.

At the same time, competition for tech workers isn’t likely to go away. U.S. employers across all sectors posted nearly 317,000 tech job openings in October, up by more than 10,000 from September, enterprise-technology trade group CompTIA said Friday.

Musk Moves Defy Corporate Gurus

By CHIP CUTLER

In the days since Elon Musk closed a \$44 billion takeover of **Twitter Inc.**, he has worked to rapidly overhaul the social network.

He fired many of the company’s top leaders, including its general counsel, chief financial officer and chief executive officer. He conducted sweeping layoffs, eliminating roughly half of Twitter’s workforce on Friday. Along the way, he floated new product ideas, mocked internal management training, publicly disclosed a decline in revenue and hinted that other changes could be on the way.

The billionaire’s swift actions stand in contrast to those of many new leaders, who often use the first 90 days to meet with employees, listen to concerns and assess how to improve a company’s products before embarking on strategy shifts, executives and corporate advisers say.

“At a minimum, this is an untraditional approach,” said Joel Peterson, the former chairman of JetBlue Airways Corp., who has served on dozens of corporate boards and advised chief executives across industries. “It’s iconoclastic, it’s unusual, it’s not what everybody would do—but I don’t really fault him for it.”

Mr. Musk—who once described himself to The Wall Street Journal as a “nano manager” steeped in the smallest details—appears to be employing many of the management tactics he deployed in building his other companies, Tesla Inc. and Space Exploration Technologies Corp., executives and advisers say. Those include a hands-on obsession over product decisions, a distaste for corporate structures and a focus on speed. Tesla is the world’s most-valuable car company, and SpaceX is the world’s busiest rocket-launch operation.

Management specialists have long said the first few months of an executive’s tenure are crit-

ical, a time when corporate chiefs can plot their agenda and begin to reset a corporate culture. Well-known books on the subject, such as “You’re in Charge—Now What?” say new leaders should strike a balance, setting expectations internally and shaping their management team, while learning about the organization, too.

Peter Crist, chairman of Crist Kolder Associates, an executive-search firm, said new leaders typically spend the initial months looking to understand the talent within a company, learning employees’ strengths and weaknesses before making changes to staffing.

“Normally, a CEO from the outside coming in isn’t going to wipe the slate clean on the first day,” Mr. Crist said, adding that swift personnel changes can create uncertainty for the workers that remain. “There has to be both a stabilization of the enterprise model and importantly a stabilization of the talent, and it’s got to get done relatively soon,” he said.

Mr. Musk is hardly the first corporate iconoclast. He is also more than familiar with Twitter, having more than 100 million followers.

On top of that, he is acquiring a company that for years lagged behind its rivals in attracting users and generating revenue, and the industry is facing a slowdown in growth and other challenges that have slashed the valuations of companies such as Facebook owner Meta Platforms Inc.

Hubert Joly, former CEO of retailer Best Buy Co., said listening tours with customers and employees can be helpful in the initial period of engineering a turnaround. When Mr. Joly took the reins of Best Buy in 2012, he spent days in retail stores observing customer behavior and holding pizza meetings with staffers. In those gatherings, he asked three questions to employees: “What’s working? What’s not working? What do you need?” Mr. Joly said.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Deutsche Bank Risks a Fine Over Laundering Controls

By PATRICIA KOWSMANN

Germany's top financial watchdog threatened to fine Deutsche Bank AG if it doesn't implement controls against money laundering by a set deadline, suggesting the regulator isn't satisfied with the bank's efforts to police dirty money flows.

BaFin, as the regulator is known, said late Friday that on Sept. 28 it told Deutsche Bank to take specific measures to prevent money laundering and terrorism financing so it can fulfill requests BaFin made in 2018 and 2019. The regulator said it would impose financial penalties if the bank doesn't comply.

Last year, the regulator expanded the role of a monitor it appointed in 2018 to look over implementation, showing it was unhappy with the progress. Deutsche Bank needs to

meet deadlines by mid-2023.

A spokesman for the bank said there were no new findings in the latest order. "We are fully aligned with the BaFin on the necessary measures and have already completed a large proportion of them," he added.

BaFin's latest warning adds pressure on Chief Executive Christian Sewing, who since taking over the bank in 2018 has tried to steer it away from scandals and focus on its operations.

Last week, Deutsche Bank reported a jump in third-quarter profit as rising interest rates improved its lending business. Costs, however, remain under pressure, partly because of how much it is spending to boost internal controls.

Past trouble with regulators includes paying fines in the U.S. for failing to properly monitor dealings with late financier and convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein and for its role as a correspondent bank for the Estonian branch of Danske Bank AS, where some \$230 billion had flowed from Russia and other former Soviet states over years with little oversight.

Deutsche Bank also has monitors in place as part of a 2017 settlement with New York state authorities related to "mirror trades," in which the bank moved \$10 billion of Russian client money out of the country.



Deutsche CEO Christian Sewing.

Coal Miners Coronado, Peabody End Deal Talks

By STUART CONDIE

SYDNEY—Peabody Energy Corp. and Coronado Global Resources Inc. have ended talks over combining to create a new global coal giant valued at about \$6 billion.

Peabody, the largest U.S. coal producer, and Coronado on Monday said they had agreed to end discussions over a combination that would have brought together assets from North America to Australia. Neither company gave a reason for the failure of the talks or disclosed the financial terms that had been proposed.

The tie-up had been seen as an indicator of how the coal-price surge that followed Russia's invasion of Ukraine is transforming the sector's fortunes. Several coal miners have seen their cash piles grow, enabling them to eliminate debt built up when expanding their operations, sweeten returns to shareholders or consider acquisitions.

While Newcastle coal futures, the main Asian benchmark, have declined about 15% since Coronado confirmed deal talks with Peabody were under way in an Oct. 12 filing to the Australian Securities Exchange, they are more than double levels at the start of this year, according to FactSet data.

Illustrating the tailwind from elevated coal prices, Peabody last week reported net income of \$375.1 million for the three months through September, compared with a \$44.2 million loss a year earlier. "Coal prices remain at levels that result in a favorable outlook for each of our operating segments," Peabody President and Chief Executive Officer Jim Grech said Thursday when reporting those results.

As recently as two years ago, Peabody was warning that it might enter bankruptcy protection for a second time, given weakness in coal markets after the Covid-19 pandemic led to a sharp drop in power demand as factories

closed or reduced output. Thermal coal is used to generate electricity but is considered among the dirtiest fossil fuels because it produces higher quantities of carbon dioxide when it is burned.

However, the war in Ukraine has stoked concerns about energy security and led European countries to try to wean themselves off Russian coal while also seeking alternative supplies of fuel including natural gas. Global coal prices have risen to records this year in response, with European coal buyers looking as far afield as Australia for supplies.

Elevated coal prices supported Coronado's move last month to declare a \$225 million third-quarter special dividend. It also said it would buy \$200 million in senior secured notes, citing record year-to-date fiscal results and strong liquidity. On Monday, it said that it will continue to implement its capital-management plans.

Peabody, which has Elliott Management Corp. as its biggest shareholder, runs thermal-coal mines in Wyoming, Indiana and several other U.S. states. It also has mines in Australia that export metallurgical and thermal coal. Metallurgical coal is used to produce steel.

Shares in Coronado were down 6% after about three hours of trading on Monday, making them the worst-performing stock on the benchmark S&P/ASX 200 index. They are still up more than 80% so far this year.

It is the second time in 2022 that Coronado has held fruitless talks with a U.S. coal mining company. In May, it disclosed discussions with Arch Resources Inc. but wasn't able to reach an agreement.

Coronado owns the Buchanan mine in Virginia and the Logan mine in West Virginia. The company also owns the Curragh mine in Australia's Queensland state.

—Rhiannon Hoyle contributed to this article.



Mining companies have profited from rising coal prices as Europe seeks alternatives to Russian energy. A Peabody mine in Indiana.

This announcement is neither an offer to purchase nor a solicitation of an offer to sell shares of Triumph Bancorp, Inc. The tender offer (as defined below) is made solely by the Offer to Purchase, dated November 7, 2022, and the related Letter of Transmittal, and any amendments or supplements thereto. In making the tender offer, we are not aware of any U.S. State where the making of the tender offer is not in compliance with applicable law. If, however, we become aware that the making of the tender offer or the acceptance of shares pursuant to the tender offer is not permitted by administrative or judicial action pursuant to a U.S. State statute ("State Law"), we will make a good faith effort to comply with such applicable State Law. If, after such good faith effort, we cannot comply with the applicable State Law, the tender offer will not be made to the holders of shares in that U.S. State. In making the tender offer, we will comply with the requirements of Rule 13e-4(f)(8) promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"). In any U.S. State where the securities or Blue Sky laws require the tender offer to be made by a licensed broker or dealer, the tender offer shall be deemed to be made on our behalf by one or more registered brokers or dealers licensed under the laws of such U.S. State.

Notice of Offer to Purchase for Cash by TRIUMPH BANCORP, INC. of Up to \$100,000,000 of its Common Stock

At a Purchase Price Not Less Than \$51.00 Per Share and Not More Than \$58.00 Per Share

Triumph Bancorp, Inc., a Texas corporation (the "Company," "we," "us," or "our"), hereby offers to purchase for cash up to \$100,000,000 of shares of its issued and outstanding common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the "shares"), at a price which will be not less than \$51.00 and not more than \$58.00 per share, less any applicable withholding taxes and without interest, upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the Offer to Purchase, the related Letter of Transmittal and the other materials filed as exhibits to the Issuer Tender Offer Statement on Schedule TO-I (collectively, as they may be amended or supplemented from time to time, the "tender offer materials"). The terms and conditions set forth in the tender offer materials collectively constitute the "tender offer."

THE TENDER OFFER, THE PRORATION PERIOD AND WITHDRAWAL RIGHTS EXPIRE AT 12:00 MIDNIGHT, NEW YORK CITY TIME, AT THE END OF THE DAY ON DECEMBER 6, 2022, UNLESS THE TENDER OFFER IS EXTENDED OR TERMINATED.

The tender offer is not conditioned upon any minimum number of shares being tendered. The tender offer is, however, subject to other conditions described in the Offer to Purchase.

Upon the terms and subject to the conditions of the tender offer, including the provisions relating to "odd lot" priority, proration and conditional tenders described in the Offer to Purchase, the Company will determine the Purchase Price that the Company will pay for shares properly tendered and not properly withdrawn from the tender offer, taking into account the total number of shares tendered and the prices specified by tendering stockholders. The single purchase price (the "Purchase Price") will be selected by the Company and will be the lowest purchase price (in multiples of \$0.50), which will be not less than \$51.00 per share and not more than \$58.00 per share, that will allow it to purchase that number of shares having an aggregate purchase price of \$100,000,000, or a lower amount depending on the number of shares properly tendered and not properly withdrawn pursuant to the tender offer, or a higher amount, if we exercise our right to accept for purchase up to an additional 2% of our outstanding shares without extending the tender offer. Upon the terms and subject to the conditions of the tender offer, if shares having an aggregate purchase price of less than \$100,000,000 are properly tendered and not properly withdrawn, the Company will buy all shares properly tendered and not properly withdrawn. If the conditions to the tender offer have been satisfied or waived and shares having an aggregate purchase price in excess of \$100,000,000, measured at the maximum price at which such shares were properly tendered, have been properly tendered and not properly withdrawn prior to the Expiration Date, the Company will purchase shares in the following priority:

- first, from all holders of "odd lots" (holders of fewer than 100 shares) who properly tender all their shares at or below the Purchase Price and do not properly withdraw them before the Expiration Date;
- second, subject to the conditional tender provisions described in the Offer to Purchase, on a pro rata basis, with appropriate adjustments to avoid purchases of fractional shares, from all other stockholders who properly tender shares at or below the Purchase Price and do not properly withdraw them before the Expiration Date; and
- third, if necessary to permit the Company to purchase shares having an aggregate purchase price of \$100,000,000 (or such greater amount as we may elect to purchase, subject to applicable law), from stockholders who have tendered shares at or below the Purchase Price subject to the condition that a specified minimum number of the stockholder's shares be purchased if any of the stockholder's shares are purchased in the tender offer (for which the condition was not initially satisfied) by random lot, to the extent feasible. To be eligible for purchase by random lot, stockholders whose shares are conditionally tendered must have tendered all of their shares and not properly withdrawn them prior to the Expiration Date.

All shares tendered and not purchased will be returned to stockholders at the Company's expense promptly after the Expiration Date.

Assuming that the conditions to the tender offer are satisfied or waived and the tender offer is fully subscribed, if the Purchase Price per share is \$51.00 the Company would purchase 1,960,784 shares and if the Purchase Price per share is \$58.00 the Company would purchase 1,724,137 shares, representing approximately 8.01% and 7.04%, respectively, of its outstanding shares as of November 3, 2022 (which excludes shares issuable upon exercise of stock options and vesting of restricted stock, restricted stock units, performance-based performance stock units and market-based performance stock units).

The Company expressly reserves the right to extend the tender offer at any time and from time to time by oral or written notice to the Depository (as defined in the Offer to Purchase) and by making a public announcement of such extension, in which event the term "Expiration Date" shall mean the latest time and date to which the tender offer, as so extended by the Company, shall expire. During any such extension, all shares previously tendered and not properly withdrawn will remain subject to the tender offer and to the right of the tendering stockholder to withdraw such stockholder's shares. In addition, if shares having an aggregate purchase price of more than \$100,000,000 are tendered in the tender offer and not properly withdrawn, the Company reserves the right to accept for purchase at the Purchase Price pursuant to the tender offer up to an additional 2% of its outstanding shares without extending the tender offer. The Company also expressly reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to purchase additional shares subject to legal and regulatory requirements.

Stockholders wishing to tender their shares must follow the procedures set forth in Section 3 of the Offer to Purchase and in the Letter of Transmittal. Stockholders wishing to tender their shares but who are unable to deliver them physically or by book-entry transfer prior to the Expiration Date, or who are unable to make delivery of all required documents to the Depository prior to the Expiration Date, may tender their shares by complying with the procedures set forth in Section 3 of the Offer to Purchase for tendering by Notice of Guaranteed Delivery. The proration period is the period for accepting shares on a pro rata basis in the event that the tender offer is oversubscribed. The proration period will expire at the Expiration Date.

Tenders of shares made pursuant to the tender offer may be withdrawn at any time prior to the Expiration Date, and unless previously accepted for payment as provided in the Offer to Purchase, may be withdrawn after 12:00 Midnight, New York City time, at the end of the day on December 6, 2022. To be effective, a written or facsimile transmission notice of withdrawal must be timely received by the Depository at one of its addresses set forth on the back cover of the Offer to Purchase and must specify the name of the person who tendered the shares to be withdrawn, the number of shares to be withdrawn, and the name of the registered holder of the shares, if different from that of the person who tendered such shares. If the shares to be withdrawn have been delivered to the Depository, a signed notice of withdrawal with signatures guaranteed by an Eligible Institution (as defined in the Offer to Purchase) must be submitted prior to the release of such shares. In addition, such notice must specify, in the case of shares tendered by delivery of certificates, the name of the registered holder (if different from that of the tendering stockholder) and the serial numbers shown on the particular certificates evidencing the shares to be withdrawn or, in the case of shares tendered by book-entry transfer, the name and number of the account at the Book-Entry Transfer Facility (as defined in the Offer to Purchase) to be credited with the withdrawn shares.

For purposes of the tender offer, the Company will be deemed to have accepted for payment, subject to the "odd lot" priority, proration and conditional tender provisions of the tender offer, shares that are properly tendered at or below the Purchase Price and not properly withdrawn, only when, as and if the Company gives oral or written notice to the Depository of its acceptance of the shares for payment pursuant to the tender offer.

Payment for shares tendered and accepted for payment pursuant to the tender offer will be made only after timely receipt by the Depository of certificates for such shares or a timely confirmation of a book-entry transfer of such shares into the Depository's account at the Book-Entry Transfer Facility, a properly completed and duly executed Letter of Transmittal with any required signature guarantees, or an Agent's Message (as defined in the Offer to Purchase) in connection with book-entry delivery, and any other documents required by the Letter of Transmittal.

The Company will announce the preliminary results of the tender offer, including price and preliminary information about any expected proration, on the business day following the Expiration Date. The Company does not expect, however, to announce the final results of any proration or the Purchase Price and begin paying for the tendered shares until after the Expiration Date and the guaranteed delivery period.

The purpose of the tender offer is for the Company to repurchase shares of its common stock. This structure allows the Company to purchase a fixed dollar amount of shares for one price per share. If completed, the tender offer will provide stockholders with an opportunity to obtain liquidity with respect to all or a portion of their shares, without potential disruption to the share price and the usual transaction costs inherent in open market purchases and sales.

The Company's Board of Directors has approved the tender offer. However, none of the Company, its Board of Directors, the Dealer Manager, Information Agent, the Depository or any of their respective affiliates makes any recommendation to any stockholder whether to tender or refrain from tendering any or all shares or as to the Purchase Price at which stockholders may choose to tender their shares. Stockholders must make their own decision whether to tender shares and, if so, how many shares to tender and the price at which they will tender those shares. None of the Company's directors and executive officers will tender any of their shares in the tender offer.

The receipt of cash by stockholders for tendered shares purchased by the Company in the tender offer may be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes either as a sale or exchange eligible for capital gain or loss treatment or a distribution. Stockholders are strongly encouraged to read the Offer to Purchase for additional information regarding the U.S. federal income tax consequences of participating in the tender offer and to consult their tax advisors.

The information required to be delivered by Rule 13e-4(d)(1) under the Exchange Act, is contained in the Offer to Purchase and the Schedule TO, both of which are incorporated herein by reference.

The Offer to Purchase and the related Letter of Transmittal contain important information that should be read before any decision is made with respect to the tender offer.

Questions or requests for assistance may be directed to the Information Agent at its telephone number and address set forth below. Requests for additional copies of the Offer to Purchase, the related Letter of Transmittal, the Notice of Guaranteed Delivery or the other tender offer materials may be directed to the Information Agent at its telephone number and address set forth below. Stockholders may also contact their broker, dealer, commercial bank, trust company or other nominee for assistance concerning the tender offer. To confirm delivery of shares, stockholders are directed to contact the Depository.

The Dealer Manager for the Tender Offer is:

J.P. Morgan Securities LLC
383 Madison Ave, 6th Floor
New York, New York 10179
Toll-Free: (877) 371-5947

The Information Agent for the Tender Offer is:

D.F. King & Co., Inc.
48 Wall Street, 22nd Floor
New York, NY 10005
Banks and Brokers Call: (212) 269-5550
All Others Call Toll Free: (866) 620-2536
Email: tbk@dfking.com

Triumph Bancorp, Inc.
November 7, 2022

INSIDER TRADING SPOTLIGHT

Trading by 'insiders' of a corporation, such as a company's CEO, vice president or director, potentially conveys new information about the prospects of a company. Insiders are required to report large trades to the SEC within two business days. Here's a look at the biggest individual trades by insiders, based on data received by Refinitiv on November 4, and year-to-date stock performance of the company.

KEY: B: beneficial owner of more than 10% of a security class; CB: chairman; CEO: chief executive officer; CFO: chief financial officer; CO: chief operating officer; D: director; DO: director and beneficial owner; GC: general counsel; H: officer, director and beneficial owner; I: indirect transaction filed through a trust, insider spouse, minor child or other; O: officer; OD: officer and director; P: president; UT: unknown; VP: vice president. Excludes pure options transactions.

Biggest weekly individual trades

Based on reports filed with regulators this past week

Date(s)	Company	Symbol	Insider	Title	No. of shrs in trans (000s)	Price range (\$)	\$ Value (000s)	Close (\$)	Ytd (%)
Nov. 1	Charter Communications	CHTR	E. Zinterhofer	D	27	371.52-377.33	10,175	348.82	-46.5
Nov. 3	Nuvalent	NVLU	A. Hack	DI	149	33.50	5,000	30.76	61.6
Oct. 31	Taysa Gene Therapies	TSHA	P. Manning	DO	1,500	2.00	3,000	1.99	-82.9
Nov. 2	Clene	CLNN	D. Matlin	DI	2,871	1.01	2,900	1.11	-72.9
Nov. 2			J. Gay	DI	990	1.01	1,000		
Nov. 2			D. Ujwumba	DI	990	1.01	1,000		
Nov. 2			A. Mossca	DI	792	1.01	800		
Nov. 2	Align Technology	ALGN	J. Hogan	CEO	11	188.58	1,999	180.93	-72.5
Oct. 28	Coca-Cola	KO	H. Allen	DI	33	60.18	1,998	59.26	0.1
Oct. 31-Nov. 2	American Assets Trust	AAT	E. Rady	CEOI	50	27.30-27.90	1,380	28.25	-24.7
Oct. 28	Allegion	ALLE	J. Stone	CEO	13	103.69-104.46	1,306	103.12	-22.1
Oct. 26	Streamline Health Solutions	STRM	K. Lucas	DI	758	1.32	1,000	1.77	18.8
Nov. 1	Barnes Group	B	T. Hook	CEO	28	35.83-36.51	997	37.31	-19.9
Oct. 31	Insmed	INSM	L. Lee	D	45	17.69	796	18.20	-33.2
Oct. 31-Nov. 1			M. Sharoky	D	30*	17.53-17.70	528		
Oct. 31-Nov. 2	Rocket Companies	RKT	J. Farmer	CEO	87	6.80-6.96	598	6.31	-54.9
Oct. 27-28			J. Farmer	CEO	61	6.51-6.60	399		
Nov. 1	Bancorp	TBKB	M. Cohn	D	21*	27.96-28.03	585	30.55	20.7

Sellers

Oct. 28-31	Merck	MRK	K. Frazier	OD	867	99.15-101.03	87,090	99.20	29.4
Nov. 1-2			R. Frazier	OD	600	99.61-101.05	59,915		
Oct. 28			R. Deluca	O	165	100.26	16,499		
Oct. 28			J. Zachary	GC	165	99.07-99.85	16,423		
Oct. 28			S. Chattopadhyay	O	100	100.10	10,039		
Oct. 27	Airbnb	ABNB	J. Gebbia	DO	262*	111.95-116.05	29,619	96.09	-42.3
Oct. 28	Apple	AAPL	L. Maestri	CFO	176	154.70-157.20	27,493	138.38	-22.1
Nov. 1	O'Reilly Automotive	ORLY	D. O'Reilly	ODI	25	834.98	20,874	815.74	15.5
Oct. 26-27	Moderna	MRNA	S. Banner	CEO	90*	141.34-145.01	12,879	158.41	-37.6
Oct. 25-27	Akero Therapeutics	AKRO	S. Harrison	D	285*	41.12-44.92	12,193	38.48	81.9
Oct. 28-31	Hartford Financial Services Group	HIG	D. Elliot	P	168	72.55-72.62	12,165	73.79	6.9
Oct. 31-Nov. 1	Charles Schwab	SCHW	C. Schwab	CBI	137	79.49-79.85	10,904	79.05	-6.0
Nov. 1	Keurig Dr Pepper	KDP	R. Gammort	OD	275	38.39-38.79	10,560	36.98	0.3
Oct. 31-Nov. 1	Thermo Fisher Scientific	TMO	M. Casper	CEO	20	502.11-525.56	10,288	495.55	-25.7
Oct. 27-28	NVR	NVR	D. Malzahn	CFO	2	2,402.62-2,403.23	9,826	4161.90	-29.6
Nov. 1	Hess	HES	G. Hill	O	54	143.10-143.89	7,725	146.53	97.9
Oct. 28	T-Mobile US	TMUS	N. Ray	O	50	150.47	7,524	148.83	28.3
Oct. 27-28	Calix	CALX	D. Listwin	D	100	72.66-72.87	7,277	68.42	-14.4

* Half the transactions were indirect ** Two day transaction
p - Pink Sheets

Buying and selling by sector

Based on actual transaction dates in reports received this past week

Sector	Buying	Selling	Sector	Buying	Selling
Basic Industries	663,985	3,887,407	Finance	6,561,199	130,222,983
Capital Goods	1,176,631	48,550,737	Health care	20,089,289	206,716,091
Consumer durables	391,000	6,011,289	Public Utilities	12,751	5,451,461
Consumer non-durables	2,667,375	17,074,821	Technology	1,845,849	155,631,800
Consumer services	319,463	80,657,583	Transportation	0	15,001,985
Energy	0	54,381,291			

Sources: Refinitiv, Dow Jones Market Data

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CLASS ACTION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JULIA JUNGE and RICHARD JUNGE, on behalf of themselves and a class of similarly situated investors,

Case No.: 3:20-cv-00547-WHA
(Consolidated with Case No. 3:20-cv-01163-WHA)

Plaintiffs,
v.
GERON CORPORATION and JOHN A. SCARLETT,
Defendants.

(Related Cases:
No. 3:20-cv-02823-WHA
No. 3:22-mc-80051-WHA)

SUMMARY NOTICE OF (I) PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AND PLAN OF ALLOCATION; (II) SETTLEMENT FAIRNESS HEARING; AND (III) MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES AND LITIGATION EXPENSES AND SERVICE AWARDS TO LEAD PLAINTIFFS

To: All persons who purchased Geron Corporation ("Geron") common stock during the period from March 19, 2018, to September 26, 2018, inclusive (the "Class Period"), and who were damaged thereby (the "Class").

PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY. YOUR RIGHTS WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE SETTLEMENT OF A CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT PENDING IN THIS COURT.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED, pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and an Order of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, that the Court-appointed Lead Plaintiffs and Class Representatives, Julia Junge and Richard Junge, on behalf of themselves and the Court-certified Class in the above-captioned securities class action (the "Action"), have reached a proposed settlement of the Action with defendants Geron Corporation ("Geron") and John A. Scarlett ("Scarlett"), and together with Geron, the "Defendants") for \$24,000,000 (\$17,000,000 in cash, and \$7,000,000 in Settlement Stock and/or cash, at Geron's option.) The Court has given preliminary approval to the settlement, but has invited your comments and objections and would like to take into account the Class members' views of the Settlement before making a final decision on March 30, 2023. If the Settlement is approved by the Court, it will resolve and dismiss with prejudice all claims in the Action.

instructions set forth in the Settlement Notice. If you are a Class Member and do not submit a Claim Form with all required information and supporting documentation, you will not be eligible to share in the distribution of the Net Settlement Fund, but you will nevertheless be bound by any judgments or orders entered by the Court in the Action, including the Releases specified and described in the Stipulation and Settlement Notice.

If you are a member of the Class and wish to exclude yourself from the Class, you must submit a request for exclusion and submit it either *online to the Claims Administrator* at www.GeronSecuritiesLitigation.com or *send it by First-Class U.S. mail (and if mailed, postmarked) by no later than March 9, 2023 at midnight Pacific Time, in accordance with the instructions* set forth in the Settlement Notice, unless you have previously submitted a request for exclusion in response to the Original Class Notice. If you properly exclude yourself from the Class, you will not be bound by any judgments or orders entered by the Court in the Action and you will not be eligible to share in the proceeds of the Settlement or to object to the Settlement.

Any objections to the proposed Settlement, the proposed Plan of Allocation, and/or Class Counsel's application for attorneys' fees and payment of Litigation Expenses or service awards to Lead Plaintiffs, must be received by the Court no later than **March 9, 2023 at midnight Pacific Time (the "Objection Deadline")**, in accordance with the instructions set forth in the Settlement Notice, which provides options available at the Court for Class Members to file the objections electronically on the docket for the Action by the Objection Deadline, to visit locations of the Court to file the objections by the Objection Deadline, or to mail the objections to a designated contact point and address at the Court, with the mailing postmarked by the Objection Deadline.

Please do not contact the Court, the Clerk's office, Defendants, or Defendants' Counsel regarding this notice. All questions about this notice, the proposed Settlement, or your eligibility to participate in the Settlement should be directed to the Claims Administrator or Class Counsel.

Please note that the Court may change the date and time of the Settlement Fairness Hearing without further notice to the Class, and Class Members should check www.GeronSecuritiesLitigation.com or the Court's PACER website to confirm that the hearing date has not been changed. Information and further guidance on how to access the Court's case docket or PACER is contained in the Settlement Notice. You may also visit Judge Alsup's webpage on the Northern District of California website at <https://www.cand.uscourts.gov/judges/alsup-william-whit>, where there is a link to view the schedule for upcoming hearings and other information.

Requests for the Settlement Notice and Claim Form should be made to:

Geron Securities Litigation
c/o Epiq Class Action & Claims Solutions
P.O. Box 4574
Portland, OR 97208-4574
1-844-754-5537

Inquiries, other than requests for the Settlement Notice and Claim Form should be made to Lead/Class Counsel:

Laurence D. King, Esq. KAPLAN FOX & KILSHEIMER LLP 1999 Harrison Street Suite 1560 Oakland, CA 94612 1-800-290-1952 lking@kaplanfox.com	Jeffrey P. Campisi, Esq. KAPLAN FOX & KILSHEIMER LLP 850 Third Avenue 14 th Floor New York, NY 10022 1-800-290-1952 jcampisi@kaplanfox.com
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By Order of the Court
United States District Court
Northern District of California

Questions?

Visit www.GeronSecuritiesLitigation.com or call 1-844-754-5537

*Certain persons and entities are excluded from the Class by definition and others are excluded pursuant to request. The full definition of the Class, including a complete description of who is excluded from the Class, is set forth in the Settlement Notice referred to herein.

**No Settlement Stock will be issued to Class Members. Rather, Settlement Stock will be sold and the proceeds maintained as part of the Settlement Fund for distribution as ordered by the Court.

***All capitalized terms herein have the same meaning as set forth in the Stipulation.

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NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK:
COUNTY OF NEW YORK
Index No. 65417/2015

KENNETH ROSENBLUM, Plaintiff v. CRAIG TREITLER and STEVEN ROSENBLUM, Preliminary Executors for the Estate of BERNICKE ROSENBLUM, Defendants.

Pursuant to the Interlocutory Order and Judgment of the Hon. Melissa A. Crane, J.S.C. entered on July 8, 2022 in the Supreme Court, State of New York, County of New York, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction on December 6 and December 7, 2022, in the lobby/rotunda of the New York County Supreme Courthouse, 60 Centre Street, New York, New York or such other place in said Courthouse as may be posted on the date of sale, six parcels as follows:

Parcel 1: 117 Waverly Place in the Borough of Manhattan, City, County, and State of New York, Block 553, Lot 38. Time of Sale: 9:30 a.m., December 6, 2022.

Parcel 2: 99 Perry Street in the Borough of Manhattan, City, County, and State of New York, Block 622, Lot 27. Time of Sale: 12:30 p.m., December 6, 2022.

Parcel 3: 42-44 Bank Street in the Borough of Manhattan, City, County, and State of New York, Block 614, Lot 10. Time of Sale: 2:30 p.m., December 6, 2022.

Parcel 4: 71 Thompson Street in the Borough of Manhattan, City, County, and State of New York, Block 614, Lot 31. Time of Sale: 9:30 a.m., December 7, 2022.

Parcel 5: 25 Thompson Street in the Borough of Manhattan, City, County, and State of New York, Block 489, Lot 42. Time of Sale: 12:30 p.m., December 7, 2022.

Parcel 6: 98-100 Thompson Street in the Borough of Manhattan, City, County, and State of New York, Block 502, Lot 6. Time of Sale: 2:30 p.m., December 7, 2022.

Each of the six Parcels will be sold subject to the provisions of the filed Interlocutory Order and Judgment (Docket #582) and the Terms of Sale (Docket #591) incorporated therein as Schedule A, New York County Supreme Court, Index No. 65417/2015. The Interlocutory Order and Judgment and Terms of Sale set forth the terms that will apply to the sale of each property, including the following: "The Property is sold 'AS IS' as of the date of the sale, without any representations either express or implied."

As a precondition to bidding at the auction, prospective bidders must deliver to the Auctioneer, prior to the auction, a Qualifying Deposit of \$75,000 in the form of an unconditional bank or certified check, wire transfer, or irrevocable letter of credit payable to the Referee at the conclusion of the auction. The Qualifying Deposit will be returned to all unsuccessful bidders. Bidders may wire the Qualifying Deposit to the Referee's trust Account. Account information may be obtained by contacting the Auctioneer, Matthew D. Mannion, of Mannion Auctions, LLC, at 212.267.6698 or mdmannion@pandora.com. The sale price for each parcel shall be payable ten percent (10%) (inclusive of the Qualifying Deposit) at the time of the auction and the balance at closing of title, which shall be scheduled to occur by the later of 10 days after the entry of the Court's order confirming the sale or the 90th day from the date of the auction.

The parties to the above referenced action reserve the right to bid, and if they elect to do so, need only pay for the portion of the property that said party does not already own. The real property transfer tax shall be payable by the Referee from the proceeds of the sale. The purchaser shall pay the charge for stamps upon the deed, any charge or tax for recording the said deed, and the reasonable charge of the Referee for drawing the deed. Interested bidders should review the Interlocutory Order and Judgment and Terms of Sale for a complete statement of the terms and conditions governing the sale. For information contact Jonathan Hageman @ (518) 469-2521. Dated: November 3, 2022. HON. ANTHONY J. CARPINELLO (Ret.)



Warehousing and storage companies dropped 20,000 jobs from September to October.

Logistics Companies' Hiring Spree Loses Steam

By Liz Young

The hiring frenzy in logistics driven by pandemic-fueled shopping appears to be cooling off.

Operators of warehouses, trucking fleets and other freight businesses say they are paring their payroll growth as the supply-chain disruptions that led to tens of thousands of new jobs recede. Several freight executives say they expect to reduce staff by attrition, though some suggest layoffs could come as their companies cut costs.

"We got ahead of ourselves in terms of head count," said Bob Biesterfeld, chief executive of C.H. Robinson Worldwide Inc., the largest freight broker in the U.S. by revenue. "We certainly did not expect that the market was going to

come down as rapidly as it did."

Mr. Biesterfeld said, speaking on an earnings conference call Wednesday, said: "As supply chains ease, it'll allow us and afford us the opportunity to make some difficult personnel decisions there in order to take cost out of the model."

Warehousing and storage companies, which added more than 400,000 jobs in two years through the end of 2021, dropped 20,000 jobs from September to October, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics seasonally adjusted preliminary monthly employment report released Friday.

It was the fourth straight monthly pullback in payrolls and the largest since the sector lost 75,000 jobs in April 2020 as lockdowns took hold.

"We've had over two years of exceptional growth in supply chain and demand for goods," said Cathy Roberson, president of research and consulting firm Logistics Trends & Insights LLC. "Companies had to scale up as best as they could by hiring workers to help with that increase in demand and such, and now that things are beginning to ease off, normalize, there's not the need for as many workers."

Employment in the warehousing and storage sector fell by nearly 50,000 jobs since June, according to the BLS data.

Amazon.com Inc., which doubled the size of its fulfillment network over 24 months in the pandemic, is now scaling back plans for warehouse expansion this year, and last

month froze hiring in its retail division. The e-commerce giant said it would pause corporate hiring for months amid signs of a broader economic slowdown.

The hiring restraint goes beyond the U.S., with big international freight forwarders including Switzerland-based Kuehne + Nagel International AG and Denmark's DSV AS saying they are cutting staff in some markets through attrition. "We will not replace and hire new people," said Kuehne + Nagel Chief Executive Stefan Paul on an Oct. 25 conference call, "in order to reduce manpower cost."

Trucking companies defied the logistics job pullback in October, adding 13,200 positions, reversing a decline of 9,500 jobs the previous month.

Several trucking executives said they expect a muted peak season in the coming weeks and plan to adjust their operations as demand declines.

Fort Smith, Ark.-based ArcBest Corp., parent of less-than-truckload carrier ABF Freight System, hired more than 1,000 people over the past year. Chief Executive Judy McReynolds said the company would now look to get "greater efficiency" from the people it already employs.

Old Dominion Freight Line Inc.'s head count was down by about 300 employees, roughly 1% of the less-than-truckload carrier's workforce, in the third quarter compared with the second as the company let attrition whittle back its payroll.



Disney is expected to post per-share earnings of 55 cents.

THE TICKER

MARKET EVENTS COMING THIS WEEK

Monday	Wednesday	Core, Sept.
Consumer Credit Aug, previous	EIA status report Previous change in stocks in millions of barrels	up 6.6% Oct, expected up 6.5%
up \$32.2 bil.	Crude-oil stocks	EIA report: natural-gas Previous change in stocks in billions of cubic feet
Sept, expected n.a.	down 3.1	up 107
Earnings expected Estimate/Year Ago	Gasoline stocks	Initial jobless claims
Activision Blizzard	down 1.3	Previous 217,000
0.50/0.72	Distillates up 0.4	Expected 219,000
Diamondback Energy	Mort. bankers indexes	Treasury budget
6.45/2.94	Purch, previous	Oct., '21 \$165 bil. Deficit
Franco-Nevada	down 1.0%	Oct., '22, exp. n.a.
0.85/0.87	Refinan, prev. up 0.2%	Earnings expected
International Flavors & Fragrances	Wholesale inventories	Estimate/Year Ago
1.32/1.47	Aug, previous up 1.3%	Becton, Dickinson & Co.
Take-Two Interactive	Sept, expected n.a.	2.74/2.53
Software	Earnings expected	RBC Bearings 1.81/0.89
Welltower	Estimate/Year Ago	Tapestry 0.76/0.82
0.16/0.42	Atmos Energy	TransDigm Group
Tuesday	0.43/0.37	5.22/4.25
Earnings expected	D.R. Horton	Trend Micro 0.47/0.58
Estimate/Year Ago	Fair Isaac	WestRock 1.41/1.23
Constellation Energy	4.11/3.92	Friday
0.67/n.a.	Rivian Automotive	

BUSINESS & FINANCE



Ford's lending division cut its guidance for 2022 earnings 10%.

Wall Street Financing Dries Up

Continued from page B1

said partner John Zito. That followed \$6 billion of purchases in the third quarter, including investment-grade bonds and junk-rated secured loans of companies such as Royal Caribbean Group, Carnival Corp. and Citrix Systems Inc. Much of the debt yields more than 10%, and even investments that continue to fall in price should pay out in the long run, Mr. Zito said.

Aggressive interest-rate hikes are stifling industries that depend on cheap debt to grow, such as real estate and finance. The Fed hopes that slowdown will eventually spread into the real economy as reduced hiring and corporate spending hits household budgets, which are already experiencing sharp declines in home values.

U.S. mergers and acquisitions totaled \$219 billion in September and October, down about 43% from year earlier, according to data from Dealogic. Initial public offerings of stocks dropped to \$1.6 billion in October, a 95% decline from a year earlier and the lowest volume during the month since 2011. Fewer deals means fewer fees for investment banks.

Funding of investment vehicles called collateralized loan obligations plummeted 97% from last year's levels to \$1.3 billion, in part due to fallout from the U.K. financial crisis. CLOs are the biggest buyers of junk-rated corporate loans that private-equity firms use to buy target companies, and the flow of those loans declined about 70% this October to \$54 billion.

Banks that agreed months ago to sell loans for leveraged buyouts to fund managers at lower interest rates have been forced to keep as much as \$45 billion of the debt because investors are demanding much higher yields. Debt prices fall when rates rise and the banks have had to write down the loans, taking billions of dollars in paper losses.

The new reality has crashed

down on companies and their investors in a matter of months. Bankers and private-equity firms have gone from funding takeovers at lofty prices with ease to scrambling to raise debt at any price.

"What I worry about the most is what's going to happen to the [high-valuation] investments made in the last two years," said Andrea Auerbach, global head of private investments at advisory firm Cambridge Associates.

Consider Enjoy Technology Inc., an online retailer helmed by Apple Inc.'s former top salesman Ron Johnson, that went public in October 2021 through a special-purpose acquisition company. The company planned to fund itself with capital raises but disclosed in May that it was struggling to find investors and filed for bankruptcy protection in June. Or look at Citrix Systems, the cloud-computing company that private-equity firms bought in part with borrowed money for \$16.5 billion in September. Banks took losses of at least \$500 million after struggling to sell the loans. Citrix is already on Fitch's list of most-at-risk borrowers.

The list of loss-making leveraged deals is piling up on bank balance sheets, including \$13 billion backing Elon Musk's buyout of Twitter Inc., \$6 billion for Apollo's purchase of auto-parts maker Tenneco Inc. and about \$8 billion for a private-equity takeover of media company Nielsen Holdings PLC.

Some private-equity deals are moving forward and not all banks have been stuck with unwanted debt. Blackstone Inc. disclosed last week a \$14 billion buyout of a climate-technology business. JPMorgan Chase & Co. avoided most of the problematic financing this year. But M&A activity is entering a hibernation that could last into the summer of 2023 or longer, attorneys that work on such deals said.

The pain on Wall Street reverberates on Main Street. Private-equity firms did about \$1 trillion of deals last year, penetrating even niche industries, such as car washes, and the cost of the loans those companies borrow rises in lockstep with interest rates.

-Laura Cooper and Hannah Miao contributed to this article.

This announcement is neither an offer to purchase nor a solicitation of an offer to sell shares of common stock of TriNet Group, Inc. (the "Company"). The tender offer (as defined below) is made solely by the Offer to Purchase, dated November 7, 2022, and the related Letter of Transmittal, as they may be amended or supplemented from time to time. The information contained or referred to therein is incorporated herein by reference. In making the tender offer, the Company is not aware of any U.S. State where the making of the tender offer is not in compliance with applicable law. If, however, the Company becomes aware that the making of the tender offer or the acceptance of shares pursuant to the tender offer is not permitted by administrative or judicial action pursuant to a U.S. State statute ("State Law"), the Company will make a good faith effort to comply with the applicable State Law. If, after such good faith effort, the Company cannot comply with the applicable State Law, the tender offer will not be made to the holders of shares in that U.S. State. In making the tender offer, the Company will comply with the requirements of Rule 13e-4(f)(8) promulgated under the Exchange Act (as defined below). In any U.S. State where the securities or Blue Sky laws require the tender offer to be made by a licensed broker or dealer, the tender offer shall be deemed to be made by or on the Company's behalf by one or more registered brokers or dealers licensed under the laws of such U.S. State.

Notice of Offer to Purchase for Cash by TRINET GROUP, INC. of Up to \$250,000,000 in Value of its Common Stock At a Purchase Price Not Less Than \$63.00 Per Share and Not More Than \$72.00 Per Share

TriNet Group, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "Company," "we," "us," or "our"), hereby offers to purchase for cash up to \$250,000,000 in value of shares of its issued and outstanding common stock, par value \$0.000025 per share (the "shares"), at a price which will be not less than \$63.00 and not more than \$72.00 per share, less any applicable withholding taxes and without interest, upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the Offer to Purchase, the related Letter of Transmittal and the other materials filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") as exhibits to the Tender Offer Statement on Schedule TO-I (collectively, as they may be amended or supplemented from time to time, the "tender offer materials"). The terms and conditions set forth in the tender offer materials collectively constitute the "tender offer."

THE TENDER OFFER, THE PRORATION PERIOD AND WITHDRAWAL RIGHTS EXPIRE AT 12:00 MIDNIGHT, NEW YORK CITY TIME, AT THE END OF THE DAY ON DECEMBER 6, 2022, UNLESS THE TENDER OFFER IS EXTENDED OR TERMINATED.

The tender offer is not conditioned upon any minimum number of shares being tendered and the tender offer is not subject to a financing condition. The tender offer is, however, subject to other conditions described in the Offer to Purchase.

Upon the terms and subject to the conditions of the Offer to Purchase, including the provisions relating to "odd lot" priority, proration and conditional tenders described in the Offer to Purchase, the Company will determine the single purchase price (the "Purchase Price") that the Company will pay for shares properly tendered and not properly withdrawn from the tender offer, taking into account the total number of shares tendered and the prices specified, or deemed specified, by tendering stockholders. The Purchase Price will be selected by the Company and will be the lowest purchase price (in multiples of \$0.25), which will be not less than \$63.00 per share and not more than \$72.00 per share, that will allow it to purchase that number of shares having an aggregate purchase price of \$250,000,000, or a lower amount depending on the number of shares properly tendered and not properly withdrawn pursuant to the tender offer. Upon the terms and subject to the conditions of the tender offer, if shares having an aggregate purchase price of less than \$250,000,000 are properly tendered and not properly withdrawn, the Company will buy all shares properly tendered and not properly withdrawn. If the conditions to the tender offer have been satisfied or waived and shares having an aggregate purchase price in excess of \$250,000,000, measured at the maximum price at which such shares were properly tendered, have been properly tendered and not properly withdrawn prior to the Expiration Date, the Company will purchase shares in the following priority:

- first, from all holders of "odd lots" (holders of fewer than 100 shares) who properly tender all their shares at or below the Purchase Price and do not properly withdraw them before the Expiration Date;
• second, subject to the conditional tender provisions described in Section 6 of the Offer to Purchase, on a pro rata basis, with appropriate adjustments to avoid purchases of fractional shares, from all other stockholders who properly tender shares at or below the Purchase Price and do not properly withdraw them before the Expiration Date; and
• third, if necessary to permit the Company to purchase shares having an aggregate purchase price of \$250,000,000 (or such greater amount as the Company may elect to purchase, subject to applicable law), from stockholders who have tendered shares at or below the Purchase Price subject to the condition that a specified minimum number of the stockholder's shares be purchased if any of the stockholder's shares are purchased in the tender offer (for which the condition was not initially satisfied) by random lot, to the extent feasible. To be eligible for purchase by random lot, stockholders whose shares are conditionally tendered must have tendered all of their shares and not properly withdrawn them prior to the Expiration Date. See Sections 4 and 6 of the Offer to Purchase.

All shares tendered and not purchased will be returned to stockholders at the Company's expense promptly after the Expiration Date and the guaranteed delivery period.

Assuming that the conditions to the tender offer are satisfied or waived and the tender offer is fully subscribed, if the Purchase Price per share is \$63.00, which is the minimum Purchase Price, the Company would purchase 3,968,253 shares and if the Purchase Price per share is \$72.00, which is the maximum Purchase Price, the Company would purchase 3,472,222 shares, representing approximately 6.4% and 5.6%, respectively, of its outstanding shares as of November 3, 2022. If shares having an aggregate purchase price of more than \$250,000,000 are tendered in the tender offer at or below the Purchase Price and not properly withdrawn, the Company reserves the right to accept for purchase at the Purchase Price pursuant to the tender offer up to an additional 2% of its outstanding shares without extending the expiration date. The Company also expressly reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to purchase additional shares or to change the per share purchase price range subject to applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

The Company expressly reserves the right to extend the tender offer at any time and from time to time by oral or written notice to the Depository (as defined in the Offer to Purchase) and by making a public announcement of such extension, in which event the term "Expiration Date" shall mean the latest time and date to which the tender offer, as so extended by the Company, shall expire. During any such extension, all shares previously tendered and not properly withdrawn will remain subject to the tender offer and to the right of the tendering stockholder to withdraw such stockholder's shares.

Stockholders wishing to tender their shares must follow the procedures set forth in Section 3 of the Offer to Purchase and in the Letter of Transmittal. Stockholders wishing to tender their shares but who are unable to deliver them physically or by book-entry transfer prior to the Expiration Date, or who are unable to make delivery of all required documents to the Depository prior to the Expiration Date, may tender their shares by complying with the procedures set forth in Section 3 of the Offer to Purchase for tendering by Guaranteed Delivery. The proration period is the period for accepting shares on a pro rata basis in the event that the tender offer is oversubscribed. The proration period will expire at the Expiration Date.

Tenders of shares made pursuant to the tender offer may be withdrawn at any time prior to the Expiration Date, and unless previously accepted for payment as provided in the Offer to Purchase, may be withdrawn after 12:00 Midnight, New York City time, at the end of the day on January 5, 2023. To be effective, a written transmission notice of withdrawal must be timely received by the Depository at one of its addresses set forth on the back cover of the Offer to Purchase and must specify the name of the person who tendered the shares to be withdrawn, the number of shares to be withdrawn, and the name of the registered holder of the shares, if different from that of the person who tendered such shares. If the shares to be withdrawn have been delivered to the Depository, a signed notice of withdrawal with signatures guaranteed by an Eligible Institution (as defined in the Offer to Purchase) must be submitted prior to the release of such shares. In addition, such notice must specify, in the case of shares tendered by delivery of certificates, the name of the registered holder (if different from that of the tendering stockholder) and the serial numbers shown on the particular certificates evidencing the shares to be withdrawn or, in the case of shares tendered by book-entry transfer, the name and number of the account at the Book-Entry Transfer Facility (as defined in the Offer to Purchase) to be credited with the withdrawn shares.

For purposes of the tender offer, the Company will be deemed to have accepted for payment, subject to the "odd lot" priority, proration and conditional tender provisions of the tender offer, shares that are properly tendered at or below the Purchase Price and not properly withdrawn, only when, as and if the Company gives oral or written notice to the Depository of its acceptance of the shares for payment pursuant to the tender offer.

Payment for shares tendered and accepted for payment pursuant to the tender offer will be made only after timely receipt by the Depository of certificates for such shares or a timely confirmation of a book-entry transfer of such shares into the Depository's account at the Book-Entry Transfer Facility, a properly completed and duly executed Letter of Transmittal with any required signature guarantees, or an Agent's Message (as defined in the Offer to Purchase) in connection with book-entry delivery, and any other documents required by the Letter of Transmittal.

The Company will announce the preliminary results of the tender offer, including price and preliminary information about any expected proration, on the business day following the Expiration Date. The Company does not expect, however, to announce the final results of any proration or the Purchase Price and begin paying for the tendered shares until at least three business days after the Expiration Date.

The purpose of the tender offer is for the Company to repurchase shares of its common stock. This structure allows the Company to purchase a fixed dollar amount of shares for one price per share.

The Company's Board of Directors has approved the tender offer. However, none of the Company, its Board of Directors, the Dealer Managers, Information Agent, the Depository or any of their respective affiliates makes any recommendation to any stockholder whether to tender or refrain from tendering any or all shares or as to the Purchase Price at which stockholders may choose to tender their shares. Stockholders must make their own decision whether to tender shares and, if so, how many shares to tender and the price at which they will tender those shares.

Our directors, executive officers and affiliates are entitled to participate in the tender offer on the same basis as all other stockholders. None of our directors, executive officers and affiliates have indicated that they currently intend to participate in the tender offer (though no final decision has been made). Each of them may change its intentions at any time and no assurance can be given that any of them will or will not participate in the tender offer. The equity ownership of our directors, executive officers and affiliates who do not tender their shares in the tender offer, and the equity ownership of other stockholders who do not tender their shares pursuant to the tender offer, will proportionately increase as a percentage of our issued and outstanding shares following the consummation of the tender offer.

The receipt of cash by stockholders for tendered shares purchased by the Company in the tender offer will generally be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes either as a sale or exchange eligible for capital gain or loss treatment or a distribution. Stockholders are strongly encouraged to read the Offer to Purchase for additional information regarding the U.S. federal income tax consequences of participating in the tender offer and to consult their tax advisors.

The information required to be delivered by Rule 13e-4(d)(1) under the U.S. Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, is contained in the Offer to Purchase and the Schedule TO, both of which are incorporated herein by reference.

The Offer to Purchase and the related Letter of Transmittal contain important information that should be read before any decision is made with respect to the tender offer.

Questions or requests for assistance may be directed to D.F. King & Co., Inc., the Information Agent for the Tender Offer, at its telephone number and address set forth below. Requests for additional copies of the Offer to Purchase, the related Letter of Transmittal, the Notice of Guaranteed Delivery or the other tender offer materials may be directed to the Information Agent at the telephone number and address set forth below. Stockholders may also contact their broker, dealer, commercial bank, trust company or other nominee for assistance concerning the tender offer. To confirm delivery of shares, stockholders are directed to contact the Depository.

The Dealer Managers for the Tender Offer are: BofA Securities, Inc. and Truist Securities, Inc. Bank of America Tower, One Bryant Park, New York, New York 10036. 3333 Peachtree Road NE, 11th Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30326. Toll-Free: (855) 382-6151.

The Information Agent for the Tender Offer is: D.F. King & Co., Inc. 48 Wall Street, 22nd Floor, New York, NY 10005. Banks & Brokers May Call: (212) 269-5550. All Others Call Toll-Free: (888) 542-7446. Email: met@dfking.com

TriNet Group, Inc. November 7, 2022

Closed-End Funds

Listed are the 300 largest closed-end funds as measured by assets. Closed-end funds sell a limited number of shares and invest the proceeds in securities. Unlike open-end funds, closed-end funds generally do not buy their shares back from investors who wish to cash in their holdings. Instead, fund shares trade on a stock exchange. NA signifies that the information is not available or not applicable. NS signifies funds not in existence for the entire period. 12 month yield is computed by dividing income dividends paid (during the previous 12 months for periods ending at month-end or during the previous 52 weeks for periods ending at any time other than month-end) by the latest month-end market price adjusted for capital gains distributions. Depending on the fund category, either 12-month yield or total return is listed. Source: Lipper

Table with columns: Fund (SYM), NAV, Close/Disc, Prem, Ttl Ret. Lists various funds like Adams Diversified Eq, Central Secs, etc.

Table with columns: Fund (SYM), NAV, Close/Disc, Prem, Ttl Ret. Lists various funds like EtnVncTmMgdGlbB, ETVTxMnGblDvEq, etc.

Continued on Page B9



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New York, NY
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Brooklyn, NY
917-669-6488

GBAC
750 Stewart Ave
Garden City, NY
516-222-9100

Designer Appliances
208 Bellevue Ave
Montclair, NJ
973-559-0888

Gringer & Sons
29 1st Ave
New York, NY
212-475-0600

Designer Appliances
280 Main St
Bedminster, NJ
888-714-4938

Gringer & Sons
5074 Jericho Tpke
Commack, NY
631-813-2400

Eatontown TV & Appliance
50 Highway 35
Eatontown, NJ
732-542-0400

Home Appliance
3050 Long Beach Rd
Oceanside, NY
516-678-1190

Eli's Appliance
216 3rd St
Elizabeth, NJ
201-801-1001

Joe's Appliances
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Brooklyn, NY
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CLOSED-END FUNDS

Continued From Page B6

Table with columns: Fund (SYM), NAV, Close, Disc, Prem, Ttl, Ret. Includes funds like Highland Global Alloc, India Fund, Japan Smaller Cap, etc.

52 wk Prem Ttl Ret

Fund (SYM) NAV Close/Disc Prem Ttl Ret

U.S. Mortgage Bond Funds

Investment Grade Bond Funds

Loan Participation Funds

High Yield Bond Funds

Other Domestic Taxable Bond Funds

National Muni Bond Funds

Income & Preferred Stock Funds

World Income Funds

Single State Muni Bond

World Equity Funds

Other short-term rates

Call money

Commercial paper (AA financial)

Libor

Secured Overnight Financing Rate

DTCC GCF Repo Index

Currencies

U.S.-dollar foreign-exchange rates in late New York trading

Country/currency in US\$ per US\$ (%)

Americas

Europe

Middle East/Africa

Asia-Pacific

WSJ Dollar Index

Sources: Tullett Prebon, Dow Jones Market Data

Table with columns: Fund (SYM), NAV, Close, Disc, Prem, Ttl, Ret. Includes funds like abrdn AP IncFd, MS EmMktDomDebt, etc.

52 wk Prem Ttl Ret

Fund (SYM) NAV Close/Disc Prem Ttl Ret

U.S. Mortgage Bond Funds

Investment Grade Bond Funds

Loan Participation Funds

High Yield Bond Funds

Other Domestic Taxable Bond Funds

National Muni Bond Funds

Income & Preferred Stock Funds

World Income Funds

Single State Muni Bond

World Equity Funds

Other short-term rates

Call money

Commercial paper (AA financial)

Libor

Secured Overnight Financing Rate

DTCC GCF Repo Index

Currencies

U.S.-dollar foreign-exchange rates in late New York trading

Country/currency in US\$ per US\$ (%)

Americas

Europe

Middle East/Africa

Asia-Pacific

WSJ Dollar Index

Sources: Tullett Prebon, Dow Jones Market Data

Table with columns: Fund (SYM), NAV, Close, Disc, Prem, Ttl, Ret. Includes funds like General Equity Funds, Alternative Strategies, etc.

52 wk Prem Ttl Ret

Fund (SYM) NAV Close/Disc Prem Ttl Ret

U.S. Mortgage Bond Funds

Investment Grade Bond Funds

Loan Participation Funds

High Yield Bond Funds

Other Domestic Taxable Bond Funds

National Muni Bond Funds

Income & Preferred Stock Funds

World Income Funds

Single State Muni Bond

World Equity Funds

Other short-term rates

Call money

Commercial paper (AA financial)

Libor

Secured Overnight Financing Rate

DTCC GCF Repo Index

Currencies

U.S.-dollar foreign-exchange rates in late New York trading

Country/currency in US\$ per US\$ (%)

Americas

Europe

Middle East/Africa

Asia-Pacific

WSJ Dollar Index

Sources: Tullett Prebon, Dow Jones Market Data

Table with columns: Fund (SYM), NAV, Close, Disc, Prem, Ttl, Ret. Includes funds like ArrowMark Financial Corp, BlueRock Total Inc, etc.

52 wk Prem Ttl Ret

Fund (SYM) NAV Close/Disc Prem Ttl Ret

U.S. Mortgage Bond Funds

Investment Grade Bond Funds

Loan Participation Funds

High Yield Bond Funds

Other Domestic Taxable Bond Funds

National Muni Bond Funds

Income & Preferred Stock Funds

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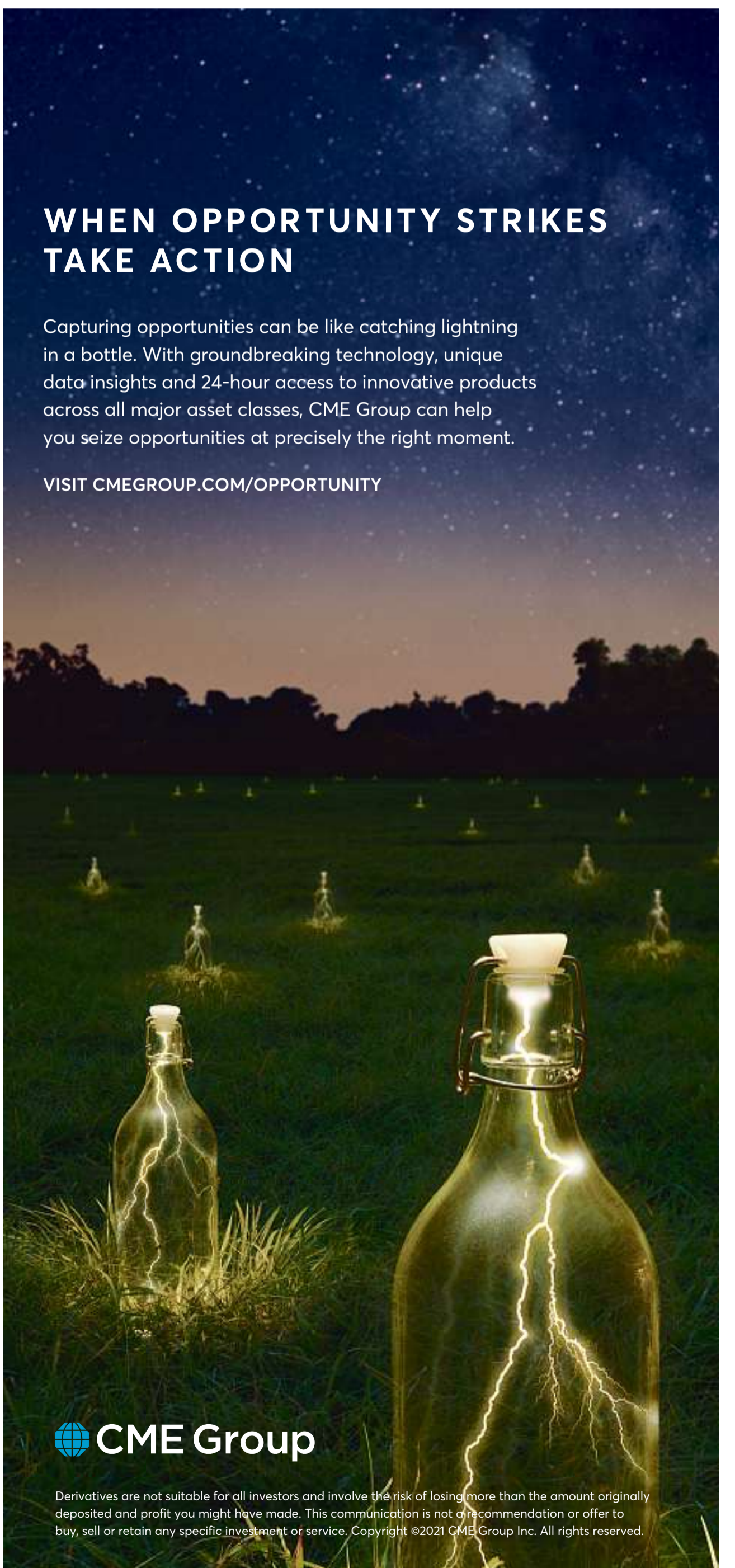
WSJ Dollar Index

Sources: Tullett Prebon, Dow Jones Market Data

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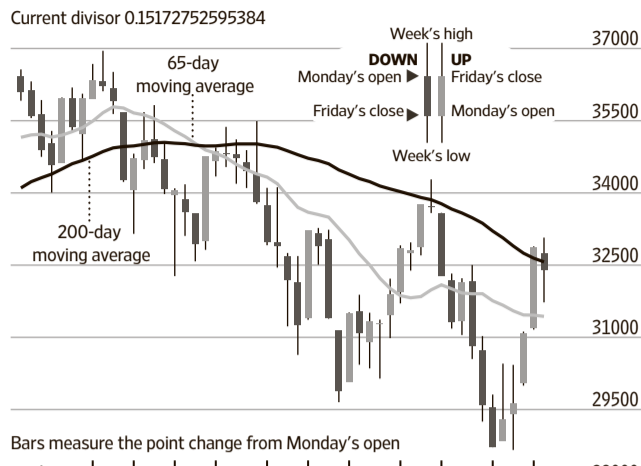


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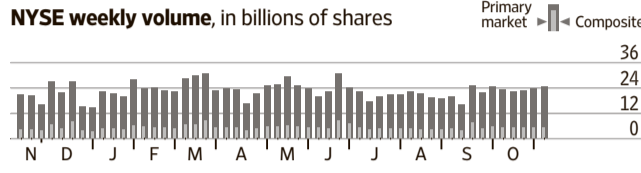
MARKETS DIGEST

Dow Jones Industrial Average

32403.22 ▼458.58, or 1.40% last week
 Trailing P/E ratio 20.01 22.65
 P/E estimate * 17.92 18.89
 High, low, open and close for each of the past 52 weeks
 Dividend yield 2.20 1.87
 All-time high 36799.65, 01/04/22



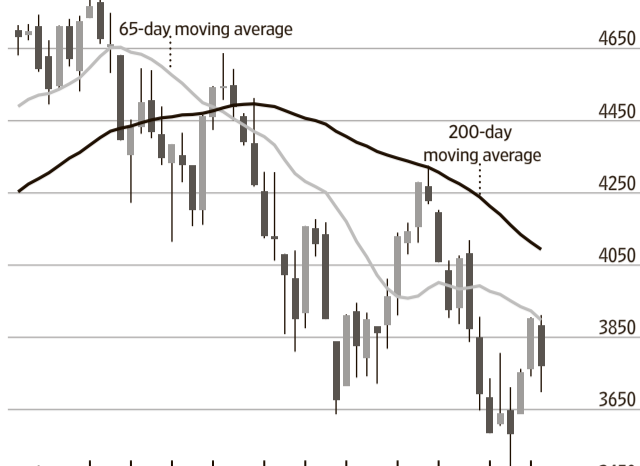
Current divisor 0.15172752595384
 Bars measure the point change from Monday's open



*Weekly P/E data based on as-reported earnings from Biriini Associates Inc.; †Based on Nasdaq-100 Index

S&P 500 Index

3770.55 ▼130.51, or 3.35% last week
 Trailing P/E ratio * 18.37 29.05
 P/E estimate * 16.92 22.45
 High, low, open and close for each of the past 52 weeks
 Dividend yield * 1.75 1.27
 All-time high 4796.56, 01/03/22



65-day moving average
 200-day moving average

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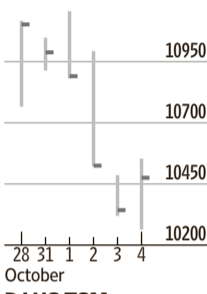
Major U.S. Stock-Market Indexes

	High	Low	Latest Week Close	Net chg	% chg	Low	52-Week Close (●)	High	% chg	YTD	3-yr. ann.
Dow Jones											
Industrial Average	33071.93	31727.05	32403.22	-458.58	-1.40	28725.51	●	36799.65	-10.8	-10.8	5.7
Transportation Avg	13741.58	12894.63	13470.08	-100.90	-0.74	11999.40	●	16890.4	-20.0	-18.2	7.1
Utility Average	929.02	890.49	913.01	-8.16	-0.89	838.99	●	1071.75	-0.6	-6.9	2.1
Total Stock Market	39437.47	37230.73	37962.57	-1309.09	-3.33	36056.21	●	48929.18	-22.1	-21.9	6.4
Barron's 400	937.40	904.42	924.13	-8.29	-0.89	825.73	●	1127.2	-16.8	-16.5	9.6
Nasdaq Stock Market											
Nasdaq Composite	11156.35	10262.93	10475.25	-627.20	-5.65	10321.39	●	16057.44	-34.4	-33.0	7.5
Nasdaq-100	11574.39	10632.39	10857.03	-689.18	-5.97	10690.60	●	16573.34	-33.6	-33.5	9.8
S&P											
500 Index	3911.79	3698.15	3770.55	-130.51	-3.35	3577.03	●	4796.56	-19.7	-20.9	7.0
MidCap 400	2458.74	2326.44	2405.74	-29.19	-1.20	2200.75	●	2910.7	-17.2	-15.4	6.4
SmallCap 600	1207.49	1137.21	1171.36	-25.49	-2.13	1064.45	●	1466.02	-20.1	-16.4	5.8
Other Indexes											
Russell 2000	1868.75	1758.05	1799.87	-47.06	-2.55	1649.84	●	2442.74	-26.1	-19.8	4.1
NYSE Composite	14929.38	14297.06	14702.77	-92.86	-0.63	13472.18	●	17353.76	-14.7	-14.3	3.3
Value Line	547.26	516.68	529.67	-12.33	-2.27	491.56	●	696.4	-23.8	-21.2	-0.4
NYSE Arca Biotech	5092.60	4819.35	4930.50	-9.43	-0.19	4208.43	●	5649.54	-12.2	-10.7	3.0
NYSE Arca Pharma	817.09	788.19	802.83	-3.86	-0.48	737.84	●	887.27	1.9	-3.0	9.8
KBW Bank	106.10	100.41	103.91	-0.72	-0.69	94.66	●	147.56	-25.3	-21.4	-1.2
PHLX [®] Gold/Silver	107.44	96.36	106.30	1.42	1.36	91.40	●	167.76	-20.7	-19.7	3.9
PHLX [®] Oil Service	86.26	79.94	84.91	4.191	5.19	49.14	●	88.37	37.9	61.1	5.9
PHLX [®] Semiconductor	2462.14	2259.87	2398.24	-35.42	-1.46	2162.32	●	4039.51	-36.2	-39.2	11.6
Cboe Volatility	27.07	24.00	24.55	-1.20	-4.66	16.29	●	36.45	49.0	42.6	24.1

● Nasdaq PHLX Sources: FactSet; Dow Jones Market Data

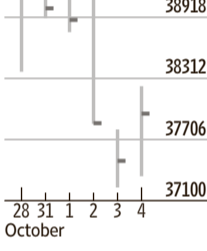
Nasdaq Composite

▼ **627.20**, or -5.65% last week



DJ US TSM

▼ **1309.09**, or -3.33% last week



International Stock Indexes

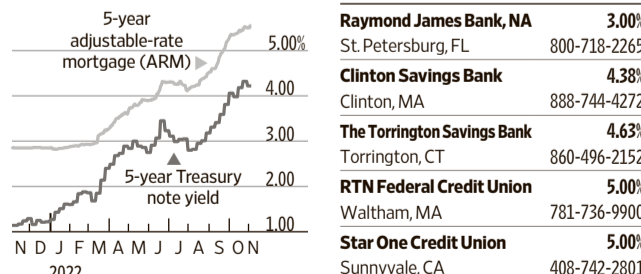
Region/Country	Index	Close	Latest Week % chg	Low	52-Week Range	High	YTD % chg
World	MSCI ACWI	580.60	-1.42	550.37	●	758.86	-23.1
	MSCI ACWI ex-USA	259.38	2.10	244.35	●	352.75	-24.7
	MSCI World	2507.22	-2.10	2367.69	●	3248.12	-22.4
	MSCI Emerging Markets	884.98	4.66	842.76	●	1290.55	-28.2
Americas	MSCI AC Americas	1437.15	-3.13	1363.36	●	1836.68	-21.4
Canada	S&P/TSX Comp	19449.81	-0.11	18206.28	●	22087.22	-8.4
Latin Amer.	MSCI EM Latin America	2361.88	7.00	1912.59	●	2761.97	10.9
Brazil	BOVESPA	118155.46	3.16	96120.85	●	121570.15	12.7
Chile	S&P IPSA	3188.51	0.41	2667.44	●	3546.47	13.6
Mexico	S&P/BMV IPC	51173.75	4.25	44626.80	●	56609.54	-3.9
EMEA	STOXX Europe 600	416.98	1.51	382.89	●	494.35	-14.5
	STOXX Europe 50	3596.48	2.01	3310.09	●	3866.60	-5.8
Eurozone	Euro STOXX	399.14	1.61	359.45	●	487.72	-16.6
	Euro STOXX 50	3688.33	2.08	3279.04	●	4401.49	-14.2
Austria	ATX	3091.54	5.42	2647.43	●	4059.59	-19.9
Belgium	Bel-20	3602.53	1.38	3313.82	●	4388.90	-16.4
France	CAC 40	6416.44	2.29	5676.87	●	7376.37	-10.3
Germany	DAX	13459.85	1.63	11975.55	●	16271.75	-15.3
Greece	Athex Composite	879.10	2.13	779.20	●	971.09	-1.6
Israel	Tel Aviv	1914.47	-1.00	1775.89	●	2071.10	-3.2
Italy	FTSE MIB	23282.46	3.34	20353	●	28163	-14.9
Netherlands	AEX	671.88	0.65	630.58	●	827.57	-15.8
Portugal	PSI 20	5734.96	1.37	5190.28	●	6349.21	3.0
Russia	RTS Index	1094.30	-1.75	742.91	●	1865.46	-31.4
South Africa	FTSE/JSE All-Share	69305.19	4.40	63263.94	●	77536.12	-6.0
Spain	IBEX 35	7942.70	0.33	7261.1	●	9141.8	-8.8
Sweden	OMX Stockholm	759.49	0.97	690.07	●	1045.27	-26.8
Switzerland	Swiss Market	10787.77	0.14	10072.62	●	12970.53	-16.2
U.K.	FTSE 100	7334.84	4.07	6826.15	●	7672.40	-0.7
Asia-Pacific	MSCI AC Asia Pacific	140.14	3.38	134.3	●	201.1	-27.4
Australia	S&P/ASX 200	6892.50	1.57	6433.4	●	7592.8	-7.4
China	Shanghai Composite	3070.80	5.31	2886.43	●	3681.08	-15.6
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	16161.14	8.73	14687.02	●	25713.78	-30.9
India	S&P BSE Sensex	60950.36	1.65	51360.42	●	61308.91	4.6
Japan	NIKKEI 225	27199.74	0.35	24717.53	●	29808.12	-5.5
Malaysia	FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI	1438.28	-0.62	1373.36	●	1618.54	-8.2
Singapore	Straits Times	3130.11	2.32	2969.95	●	3445.01	0.2
South Korea	KOSPI	2348.43	3.53	2155.49	●	3029.57	-21.1
Taiwan	TAIEX	13026.71	1.86	12666.12	●	18526.35	-28.5

Source: FactSet; Dow Jones Market Data

Consumer Rates and Returns to Investor

U.S. consumer rates

A consumer rate against its benchmark over the past year



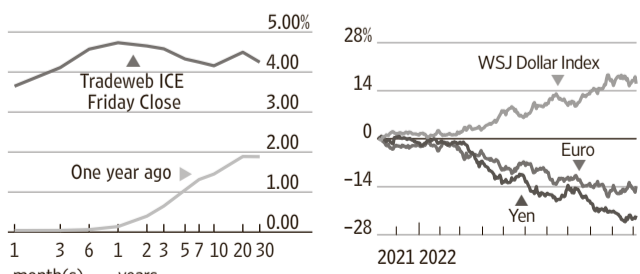
Interest rate	Yield/Rate (%) Last	52-Week Range (%)	3-yr chg (pct pts)
Federal-funds rate target	3.75-4.00	3.00-3.25	0.00
Prime rate*	7.00	6.25	3.25
Labor, 3-month	4.55	4.44	0.14
Money market, annual yield	0.25	0.24	0.07
Five-year CD, annual yield	2.39	2.30	0.41
30-year mortgage, fixed†	7.41	7.10	3.09
15-year mortgage, fixed†	6.53	6.42	2.42
Jumbo mortgages, \$647,200-plus†	7.44	7.11	3.09
Five-year adj mortgage (ARM)†	5.55	5.51	2.82
New-car loan, 48-month	6.12	6.10	3.41

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

Benchmark Yields and Rates

Treasury yield curve

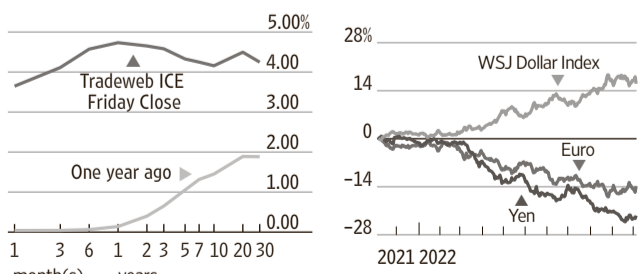
Yield to maturity of current bills, notes and bonds



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; S&P Dow Jones Indices; Bloomberg Fixed Income Indices; ICE BofA

Corporate Borrowing Rates and Yields

Bond total return index	Yield (%) Last	Wk ago	Spread +/- Treasury, in basis pts, 52-wk Range	Total Return 52-wk	3-yr
U.S. Treasury, Bloomberg	4.510	4.320		-14.80	-3.59
U.S. Treasury Long, Bloomberg	4.460	4.320		-32.88	-9.90
Aggregate, Bloomberg	5.110	4.940	n.a.	33	69
Fixed-Rate MBS, Bloomberg	5.170	4.990	n.a.	18	88
High Yield 100, ICE BofA	8.467	7.895	395	249	552
Muni Master, ICE BofA	3.884	3.913	-4	-17	10
EMBI Global, J.P. Morgan	8.699	8.680	424	316	496

New to the Market

Public Offerings of Stock

IPOs in the U.S. Market

None expected this week

Lockup Expirations

Below, companies whose officers and other insiders will become eligible to sell shares in their newly public companies for the first time. Such sales can move the stock's price.

Lockup expiration	Issue date	Issuer	Symbol	Offer price(\$)	Offer amt (\$ mil)	Through Friday (%)	Lockup provision
Nov. 8	May 12, '22	ProFrac Holding	PFHC	18.00	360.0	32.8	180 days
	May 10, '22	Hanover Bancorp	HNVR	21.00	30.0	-5.8	180 days

Sources: Dealogic; Dow Jones Market Data

IPO Scorecard

Performance of IPOs, most-recent listed first

Company	SYMBOL	IPO date/offer price	Friday's close (\$)	Offer price	% Chg From Friday's close	Company	SYMBOL	IPO date/offer price	Friday's close (\$)	Offer price	% Chg From Friday's close
Mobley Global	MBLY	Oct. 26/\$21.00	25.89	23.3	-10.6	Nexalin Technology	NXL	Sept. 16/\$4.15	1.61	-61.2	-28.4
Prime Medicine	PRME	Oct. 20/\$17.00	20.22	18.9	31.6	Corebridge Financial	CRBG	Sept. 15/\$21.00	21.77	3.7	5.0
Hudson Acquisition I	HUDAU	Oct. 14/\$10.00									