

# [***Forbes Daily: Is A TikTok Ban On The Horizon?***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6BJD-00M1-DXVP-501N-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Length:** 1845 words

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**Highlight:** Wednesday s edition of Forbes Daily covers hot inflation numbers, Boeing s continuing stock issues, eBay s problem with deepfake porn and drug discovery s AI breakthrough.

**Body**

**This is a published version of the Forbes Daily newsletter, you can sign-up to get Forbes Daily in your inbox here.**

Good morning,

This week marked the fourth anniversary of the Covid-19 pandemic, but one of the biggestthreats to public health isn t a virus: it s misinformation.

Two months after the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic, researchers at Carnegie Mellon University reported that much of the discussion on Twitter of Covid-19 was disinformation driven by bot accounts.

It s not just Covid-19: By 2000, measles was officially eliminated from the U.S. due to the introduction of a vaccine, but cases are surging as vaccination rates drop amid**an onslaught of misinformation.**

Effective counter messaging from public health officials is key to rebuilding Americans trust.

**BREAKING NEWS**

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In this pool photograph distributed by Russia's state agency Sputnik, Russian President Vladimir Putin gives an interview to TV host and Director General of Rossiya Segodnya (RIA Novosti) news agency Dmitry Kiselyov at the Kremlin in Moscow on March 12, 2024. (Photo by Gavriil GRIGOROV / POOL / AFP) (Photo by GAVRIIL GRIGOROV/POOL/AFP via Getty Images)

POOL/AFP via Getty Images

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In an interview on state-run broadcaster Rossiya-1, Russian President**Vladimir Putin said Wednesday his country s nuclear forces are constantly combat-ready**and warned that any presence of U.S. troops on Ukrainian soil will be viewed as an escalation. However,Putin said he did not believe that a military clash with the U.S. was inevitable, and called President Joe Biden a representative of the traditional political school with administration officials who are in favor of strategic restraint.

Former PresidentDonald Trump won the GOP presidential nominationTuesday, according to the Associated Press, hours after Biden won his party s nomination making the**2024 primary season one of the shortest in modern history**. Republicans will officially confirm their nominee at the Republican National Convention July 15-18 in Milwaukee, and Democrats will hold their convention August 19-22 in Chicago.

The Bezos Earth Fund announced Tuesday it wasinvesting $60 million to create the Bezos Centers for Sustainable Proteinto focus on targeting challenges in biomanufacturing and invent(ing) our way out of climate change, according to the Fund s vice chair and Bezos fiancee, Lauren Sanchez. The $60 million is part of the Bezos Earth Fund s**$1 billion commitment to transforming food and agriculture systems**in an effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

**BUSINESS + FINANCE**

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Gas prices are displayed at a gas station on March 12, 2024 in Chicago, Illinois. (Photo by Scott Olson/Getty Images)

Getty Images

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For the fourth consecutive month,inflation came in hotter than economists anticipated, even as underlying metrics show**signs of progress in the battle against rising prices.**Core inflation, which excludes the more volatile food and energy subindexes, came in at 3.8%, above forecasts of 3.7% but still the lowest annualized core inflation reading since May 2021.

Nonetheless,stocks rallied Tuesday, led by massive tech stocks, even as stickier-than-expected inflation could mean a delay in interest rate cuts. Tom Lee, head of research at boutique firm Fundstrat Global Advisors, hypothesized to CNBC that the market is **discounting the notion that overall inflation numbers look worse** than the reality of the economic situation.

One stock that continues to suffer is Boeing:Shares of the aerospace giant tanked again Tuesday, a decline that came after the**New York Times** reported Boeing failed almost 40% of the Federal Aviation Administration s audits of its manufacturing process for the 737 Max commercial jet.**Boeing s stock is now down 29% this year,** making it the second-worst performing company listed on the S&P 500, according to FactSet data, amid high-profile safety incidents.

**MORE:** Airlines also struggled Tuesday, withSouthwest Airlines stock plummeting more than 14%after it said it will**cut its flight capacity after receiving fewer Boeing jets than expected**.Meanwhile,American Airlines stock dropped just under 5%after the company said it would have an adjusted loss at the low end of its prior guidance for the first quarter because of higher-than-expected fuel prices.

**WEALTH + ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

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Barry Sternlicht (Photo by Craig Barritt/Getty Images for 1 Hotel Brooklyn Bridge)

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BillionaireBarry Sternlicht is doing a SPAC deal with himself: On Monday, Jaws Mustang Acquisition Corp., a blank check company sponsored by Sternlicht, announced it intends to combine with a group of hotels owned by Starwood Capital Group, a private real estate investment firm where Sternlicht is CEO and majority shareholder. There are no regulations preventing SPAC sponsors from merging with companies their beneficial owners also control,**but this sort of deal is prone to conflicts of interest**, says NYU Law Professor Michael Ohlrogge.

**TECH + INNOVATION**

FormerPresident Donald Trump discussed selling his social media site**Truth Social to Elon Musk last summer**,the**Washington Post** reported, at the same time the company that planned to take the social network public faced an SEC investigation and regulatory pressure. The talks came before the SEC approved a proposed merger in February between Trump Media & Technology Group, the mostly Trump-owned company that owns Truth Social, and blank check firm Digital World Acquisition Corp.

**MONEY + *POLITICS***

The House of Representatives is expected to vote Wednesday on a bill that would**force Chinese tech firm ByteDance to sell TikTok or face a ban**in the United States. Thebill has received bipartisan support from unlikely allies,including President Joe Biden and House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.). But progressive Democrats may come out against it, and in a surprising reversal, former President Donald Trump has expressed opposition despite trying to ban the social media app during his presidency.

**SPORTS + ENTERTAINMENT**

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Margot Robbie

JOEL C RYAN/INVISION/AP

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As Congress held a hearing Tuesday on the rise in non-consensual pornographic deepfakes, found that eBay is teeming with thousands of AI-generatedand photoshopped pornography**of at least 40 celebrities including Margot Robbie, Selena Gomez and Jenna Ortega**. It s not just the sellers. Companies like eBay are also profiting from image-based sexual abuse, said Lina Nealon, an executive for the National Center on Sexual Exploitation.

**DAILY COVER STORY**

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As language models like ChatGPT and Gemini have ushered in a new age of AI in Silicon Valley, the world s most powerful tech companies are looking ahead to drug discovery and digital biology.

ILLUSTRATION BY ANGELICA ALZONA FOR FORBES; LAGUNA DESIGN/GETTY IMAGES

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**TOPLINE** As language models like ChatGPT and Gemini have ushered in a new age of AI in Silicon Valley, the world s most powerful tech companies are looking to **biotech as the next frontier in artificial intelligence.**

At Nvidia, one of the few companies with a market cap in the trillions, the bulk of its venture capital investments over the past two years have been in drug discovery. At DeepMind, the Google AI lab s AlphaFold model a groundbreaking tool for predicting protein structures has been used by academic researchers over the past year to develop a molecular syringe to inject medicine directly into cells, and to research crops that are less dependent on pesticides.

While using AI in drug discovery is not exactly a new trend, executives at both DeepMind and Nvidia told**Forbes**that **this is a breakthrough moment,**thanks to a confluence of three things: the mass of training data now available, the explosion of computing resources and advancements in AI algorithms.

AI has great potential in the biotech space because of its sheer complexity. Training AI models on hundreds of millions of different protein sequences and their underlying structures helps those models uncover patterns in biology without necessarily needing to do the expensive computations required by a true molecular dynamics simulation.

The boom in drug discovery tech isn t only coming from the AI tech giants. Since 2021, there have been 281 venture capital deals worldwide in AI drug discovery startups,**accounting for $7.7 billion in investment,**according to PitchBook.

Still, as promising and hyped as AI drug discovery is, there are setbacks. It still takes years to get drugs through clinical trials, and while the FDA so far has okayed clinical trials for over 100 new drug candidates that use AI or machine learning as a key development component, it has yet to actually approve one to enter the market. That s in part because the trial process itself often takes years to complete.

**WHY IT MATTERS**  When people think about the recent wave of innovation in AI, they re mostly thinking about the most controversial topics: using ChatGPT to cheat on exams, whether image generators are violating artist copyrights, making deepfakes to spread misinformation, things like that, says**Forbes** senior editor Alex Knapp. But the major investments that tech companies are making into biopharma is one area where **AI may have a real potential to be a technology for good.**If machine learning lives up to its promise of making drug discovery more efficient, that could mean better treatments at a lower cost than what s available now.

**MORE:** This Startup Says It Can Beat Deepmind s Gamechanging Protein AI

**FACTS AND COMMENTS**

A new study foundpermitless open carry laws may result in higher ratesof firearm-related suicides. Open carry**allows loaded guns to be either fully or partially visible**in public without a license:

**18%:** The rise in firearm-related suicides in the five states that began allowing open carry between 2013 to 2021

**45%:**The increase in total firearm-related deaths in all 50 states during the study timeframe, the majority of which were firearm-related suicides

**355,412:** The number of firearm-related deaths in the U.S. in that period

**STRATEGY AND SUCCESS**

If you ve been on the job hunt and haven t received many replies,your résumé could be one reason. Make sure to write an engaging summary that s specific and short,**tailor the keywords and skills on your résumé to the role you re applying for,** and show how you ve made an impact on your employers in the work experience section. Always proofread for grammatical and spelling errors and don t lie or exaggerate.

**VIDEO**

https://www.forbes.com/video/6348691216112/

**QUIZ**

A state bill introduced Tuesday would ban a handful of food dyes from foods served in public schools amid claims they re linked to behavioral issues, though the FDA has said they are safe.**Which state** was the bill introduced in?

A. Oregon

B. Utah

C. Wisconsin

D. California

Check your answer.

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