

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

DOW JONES | News Corp *****

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WSJ.com

★★★★ \$4.00

DJIA 26210.81 ▼ 3.79 0.01%

NASDAQ 7460.29 ▲ 0.7%

STOXX 600 402.81 ▲ 0.2%

10-YR. TREAS. ▲ 11/32, yield 2.622%

OIL \$64.47 ▲ \$0.90

GOLD \$1,335.70 ▲ \$4.80

EURO \$1.2298

YEN 110.31

What's News

Business & Finance

P&G said average prices on its products fell last quarter for the first time since 2011, while Kimberly-Clark said it would cut at least 5,000 jobs, reflecting the pressures faced by consumer brands. **A1**

◆ The Senate confirmed Powell to become the 16th chairman of the Federal Reserve, succeeding Yellen. **A2**

◆ CSX will require its CEO to submit to an annual physical exam that will be reviewed by the board. **A1**

◆ JPMorgan plans to invest \$20 billion across its businesses as it benefits from the tax overhaul and regulatory changes. **B1**

◆ Weinstein Co.'s owners have entered exclusive talks to sell the studio to a Contreras-Sweet group for a little more than \$500 million. **B1**

◆ Twitter's Noto is leaving the post of operating chief at the social-media firm to head online lender SoFi. **B1**

◆ U.K. regulators said Fox's ownership of all of Sky would give the Murdochs too much influence, but kept open options for a deal. **B3**

◆ The S&P 500 rose to a record following the latest batch of earnings. The Dow eased 3.79 to 26210.81. **B13**

◆ Tesla revealed a pay plan for Musk that is again tied to performance benchmarks, but with much grander goals. **B2**

◆ The FDIC nominee said she plans to focus on easing regulatory requirements for community banks. **B12**

◆ UBS shuffled the top ranks of its wealth-management division. **B12**

World-Wide

◆ Fault lines on trade were laid bare as 11 Pacific Rim nations agreed to forge a new bloc that excludes the U.S. and Trump signed orders to block certain Asian imports. **A1 A6**

◆ Canada and Mexico said they would cooperate in trying to address U.S. demands for Nafta. **A6**

◆ A top FBI agent expressed skepticism last spring about Mueller's probe of alleged Russian election meddling, a text message shows. **A3**

◆ Sessions was interviewed for several hours last week by investigators in the Russia probe. **A3**

◆ A 15-year-old boy shot and killed two students and wounded 12 more at a Kentucky high school. **A3**

◆ A leading bipartisan Senate immigration proposal is unacceptable to Trump, the White House said. **A4**

◆ Five workers were killed in an Oklahoma well blast, the deadliest drilling accident of the shale boom. **A3**

◆ Tillerson said he is holding Russia accountable for a new chemical strike believed to have been conducted by Syrian regime forces. **A9**

◆ Qatar alleged that rival Gulf nations tried to manipulate its currency and called for an investigation. **A8**

◆ Egyptian authorities arrested an ex-military chief who planned to run for president against Sisi. **A8**

◆ Died: Hugh Masekela, 78, South African jazz legend. **A11** Ursula Le Guin, 88, science-fiction writer.

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Volcano Lights Up the Sky in the Philippines, as Fears Grow



ON EDGE: Mayon, the Philippines' most active volcano, spewed lava and massive ash plumes Tuesday after a series of eruptions Monday, sending more than 56,000 villagers fleeing to evacuation centers. Officials warned that a more violent eruption could follow. **A11**

Global Trade Tensions Rise

Trump's tariffs spark criticism; Japanese, Indian officials cite protectionism concern

By JACOB M. SCHLESINGER

WASHINGTON—The emerging fault lines in the global trading system were laid bare Tuesday, as 11 Pacific Rim nations agreed to forge a new commercial bloc that excludes the U.S., while President Donald Trump signed orders to curb cheap Asian imports he said had unfairly harmed American manufacturers.

As Mr. Trump touted from the Oval Office his commitment “to defending American companies...very badly hurt from harmful import surges,” U.S. allies grew more vocal in their concerns about what they view as the longtime leader of the world trading system turning inward.

“Now in some parts of the world, there is a move toward protectionism,” Toshimitsu Motegi, the Japanese economy minister, said in Tokyo, announcing the agreement for the Trans-Pacific Partnership, re-drafted after Mr. Trump pulled the U.S. out a year ago. “TPP-11 is a major engine to overcome

such a phenomenon.”

The debate is expected to intensify this week as it shifts to Davos, Switzerland, where Mr. Trump is scheduled Friday to explain and defend his emerging “America First” policies to the World Economic Forum, a group that has staunchly defended and fostered globalism over the past four decades.

As a sign of the arguments to come, Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India addressed the *Please see TRADE page A6*

◆ Discord arises over tariffs’ impact on jobs..... **A6**
◆ Warning signs dent growth confidence at Davos..... **A7**

Cleaning Up

Imports of large residential washers are surging

10 thousand TEUs*



*Twenty-foot equivalent units (shipping containers)

Source: Panjiva

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Price War Pressures Consumer Brands

BY SHARON TERLEP

Household goods from diapers to toilet paper to razors are getting cheaper, but what is a boon for shoppers is squeezing profits at the world’s biggest consumer-goods companies.

Under pressure to boost sales, Procter & Gamble Co. resorted to widespread discounting late last year to win back customers. P&G, which makes Tide detergent and Pampers diapers, said Tuesday that average prices on its products fell in the most recent quarter for the first time since 2011.

Kimberly-Clark Corp., which sells Huggies diapers and Kleenex tissues, partly blamed its rival’s lower prices for weak sales as it unveiled a broad restructuring Tuesday, including at least 5,000 layoffs.

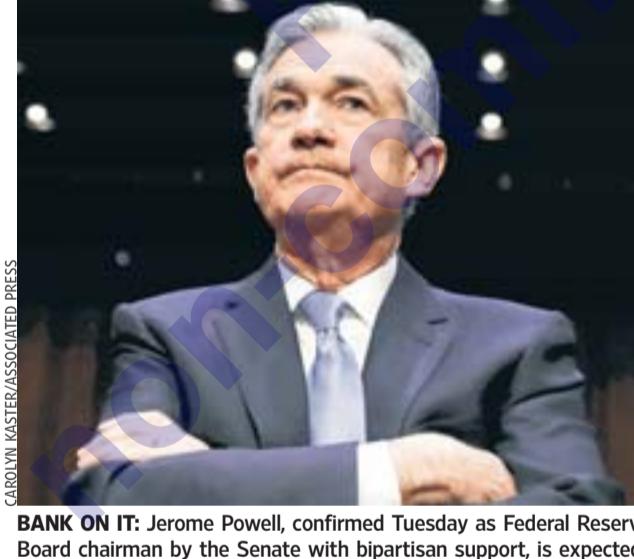
A healthy U.S. economy and the lower corporate tax rate have done little to alleviate the challenges these companies face. Retailers such as Wal-Mart Stores Inc. are pushing for steeper discounts as they struggle to compete with Amazon.com Inc. Meantime, costs of pulp, oil and other raw materials used in the products have risen more than expected.

The dynamics are setting up a tug of war this year between consumer-products companies that are pouring money into new products and marketing in hopes of commanding higher prices, and retailers and shoppers increasingly accustomed to discounts.

Kimberly-Clark Chief Executive *Please see SALES page A4*

◆ Heard on the Street: Cuts alone won’t save these firms..... **B14**

New Hand to Guide the Fed



BANK ON IT: Jerome Powell, confirmed Tuesday as Federal Reserve Board chairman by the Senate with bipartisan support, is expected to continue raising rates to keep the economy on track. **A2**

For Scotch Whisky Purists, This Might Be Hard to Swallow

Secret documents outline effort to buck distilling traditions; tequila-barrel finish

By SAABIRA CHAUDHURI

LONDON—Here’s a neat story.

The documents involved are top secret. They detail a plot by a multinational company to challenge hundreds of years of tradition. Some find the suggestions so hard to swallow they are warning of rebellion.

The making of Scotch whisky has long followed a precise formula enshrined in law and precedent. Scotch must be distilled in Scotland from water and malted barley and aged in the country at least three years in oak casks. It should come out at least 40% alcohol by volume.

Now Diageo PLC, the world’s

single biggest producer, wants to water down some of those rules, part of its attempt to arrest Scotch’s declining market share. Last year, it formed a secret task force to explore ways to change some industry rules about how Scotch must be made.

One idea was to finish aging Scotch in old tequila barrels instead of the sherry, cognac or port casks traditionally used. Another was to create a “Scotch whisky infusion,” a new category of flavored or low-alcohol blends sold under existing Scotch brands.

Diageo’s efforts to win over the Scotch Whisky Association, which lays down rules for dis-

Founder and Protégé Clash At Hedge-Fund Giant

Och-Ziff is in turmoil after CEO sours on 34-year-old heir apparent

BY GREGORY ZUCKERMAN AND ROB COPELAND

Once they were mentor and protégé. Now Daniel Och and James Levin are trapped in a battle for the future of one of New York’s biggest investment firms.

In the late 1990s, Mr. Levin was working at a summer camp in Wisconsin, teaching Mr. Och’s son how to water ski. By last year, the younger man was in line to succeed Mr. Och as chief executive of Och-Ziff Capital Management LLC, the largest publicly traded hedge fund in the U.S. with \$33 billion in assets under management. To entice him to stick around, Mr. Och handed Mr. Levin, who is 34 years old and goes by Jimmy, nearly \$300 million in cash and Och-Ziff stock.

Over Christmas weekend, Och-Ziff rushed

out a letter to investors revealing that the 57-year-old Mr. Och had changed his mind, overruling others in the process. “After extensive discussion with the board of directors, including the company’s independent directors, who support transitioning to Jimmy in the near future, it was the conclusion of Dan Och...that now is not the right time to transition to Jimmy.”

Mr. Och himself has never publicly addressed why he soured on Mr. Levin and reasserted control at the big firm. Interviews with more than a dozen people close to the situation at Och-Ziff suggest that many inside the firm, including board members and Mr. Levin, were shocked by the shift. People familiar with Mr. Och’s thinking say he felt

Please see FUND page A12

INSIDE



FLOOD OF OSCAR NOMINATIONS FOR ‘WATER’

LIFE & ARTS, A13

THE MAN BEHIND A BITCOIN JOLT

BUSINESS & FINANCE, B1

CSX to Make CEO’s Health Its Business

BY PAUL ZIOBRO

CSX Corp. will require the railroad’s chief executive to submit to an annual physical exam that will be reviewed by the board, adopting an unusually aggressive approach to a delicate issue just weeks after the death of its previous CEO.

The railroad’s board was under fire last year after it agreed to hire Hunter Harrison even though he declined to get a physical exam or provide access to his medical records—despite concerns about the then 72-year-old railroad veteran’s health.

The board ultimately asked shareholders to vote on a pay package that in effect would bless the arrival of Mr. Harrison. The resolution passed with overwhelming support.

Mr. Harrison, who signed a four-year contract with the Jacksonville, Fla., company in March 2017, died Dec. 16 following unspecified health issues.

CSX’s latest move is an attempt to address the sensitive issue of CEO health and how much boards are entitled to know about it, especially in cases where a company’s fortunes are so closely tied to their leaders. CSX shares surged in January 2017 on news that Mr. Harrison wanted to run the company.

Securities laws don’t explicitly require companies to disclose executive health problems, though companies must share material information that might affect investors’ decisions to buy or sell stock.

Apple Inc.’s board never disclosed the specific reasons for two extended medical leaves by co-founder Steve Jobs, decisions that angered some shareholders. Mr. Jobs died in 2011 after battling pancreatic cancer.

United Continental Holdings Inc. told investors in October 2015 that its new CEO Oscar Munoz had been hospitalized

Please see CEO page A10

U.S. NEWS

Senate Confirms Powell as Fed Chairman

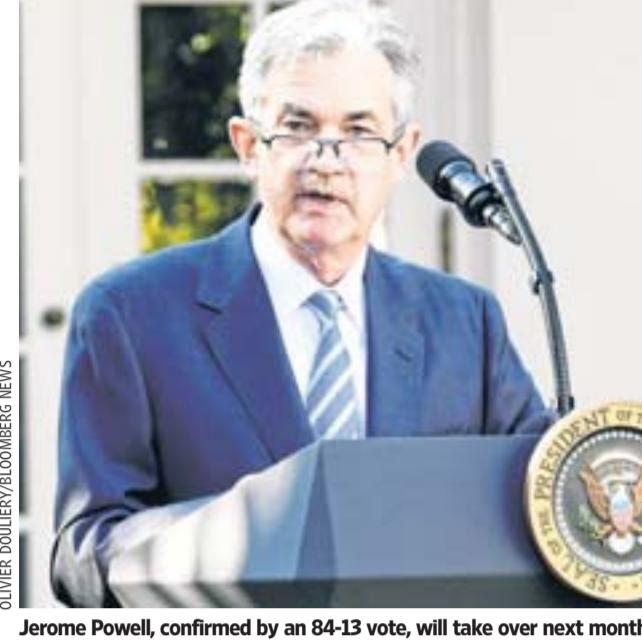
Yellen's successor is likely to continue raising rates to keep the expansion on track

By DAVID HARRISON

The Senate confirmed Jerome Powell to become the 16th chairman of the Federal Reserve, clearing the way for a new leader likely to continue raising interest rates to keep the nation's economic expansion on track.

Mr. Powell, who was confirmed Tuesday by an 84-13 vote, will take over when Chairwoman Janet Yellen's four-year term as chief ends Feb. 3. She has said she would leave the Fed board of governors once her successor is sworn in.

Although Mr. Powell's nomination attracted broad bipartisan support, it also drew opposition from several potential contenders in the 2020 presidential race. On the Democratic



Jerome Powell, confirmed by an 84-13 vote, will take over next month.

side, those voting against his confirmation included Sens. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, Kamala Harris of Califor-

nia and Cory Booker of New Jersey. On the Republican side, Sens. Ted Cruz of Texas, Rand Paul of Kentucky, Mike Lee of

Utah and Marco Rubio of Florida voted no. Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont also opposed the nomination.

Mr. Powell, a Fed governor since 2012, will inherit an economy on the upswing fueled by a booming labor market and strong global growth. His task will be to sustain the economy's expansion without letting it pick up so much momentum that the Fed would be forced to cool it off with sharp rate increases, risking a downturn.

The Fed has been gradually raising short-term interest rates since late 2015 and last year started shrinking its portfolio of assets purchased to bolster the economy during and after the financial crisis.

Officials in December raised the Fed's benchmark rate by a quarter percentage point to a range between 1.25% and 1.5% and penciled in three more such moves this year.

Mr. Powell is likely to stick with Ms. Yellen's cautious approach to raising rates.

"We've been patient in removing accommodation, and I think that patience has served us well," Mr. Powell said at his confirmation hearing Nov. 28, after being nominated by President Donald Trump on Nov. 2.

Now that growth has picked up, "it's time for us to be normalizing interest rates," he added.

But those plans could change depending on how the economy evolves. If inflation remains stuck below the Fed's 2% target, Mr. Powell and his colleagues could decide to hold off on rate increases to let price pressures build. Or if the economy shows signs of overheating, they might want to move more aggressively.

A spurt of growth driven by the tax overhaul could lead the Fed to raise rates more quickly to cool off the economy. That could place Mr. Powell at odds with the White House, which would welcome a stronger expansion.

"We can afford to go more slowly if we determine that in-

flation is going to perform lower than we thought, and we can move more quickly," Mr. Powell said in November.

Mr. Powell, a lawyer and former private-equity partner, moves into his new role with less formal training in economics and monetary policy than many of his predecessors. He will be the first Fed chairman in three decades who doesn't have a Ph.D. in economics.

Mr. Powell is the second of Mr. Trump's Fed nominees to be confirmed, following Randal Quarles.

But Mr. Powell still will have to contend with a depleted Fed board: The seven-member panel has three vacancies.

Mr. Trump has nominated Marvin Goodfriend, a Carnegie Mellon University professor and former Fed economist, to fill one of those positions. The Senate Banking Committee held his confirmation hearing Tuesday.

◆ FDIC nominee backs small banks..... B12

States Confront Pluses, Minuses Of New Tax Law

By RICHARD RUBIN

State legislatures across the U.S. will be wrestling in coming months over how to respond to federal income-tax cuts that, paradoxically, could raise tax bills at the state level.

Many states typically follow the federal government's rules for deductions, exemptions and other breaks. When federal rules change, as they did under the law passed late last year, state rules often do, too.

State lawmakers must choose whether to conform their systems to the new federal rules, cut tax rates to prevent rising tax burdens or spend potential revenue windfalls.

The outcomes will be determined in state legislative sessions now opening across the country.

"Everyone thought that tax reform was done," said Nicole Kaeding, an economist at the conservative-leaning Tax Foundation in Washington. "All we've done is move it from one capital to 50 capitals."

The new federal legislation curtailed many tax breaks, such as individual deductions for mortgage interest and tax-preparation fees and business deductions for interest and entertainment expenses. While federal rate cuts more than

Big Collectors

Percentage of state-tax revenue from individual income taxes

Oregon	69.6
Virginia	57.7
New York	57.2
Massachusetts	52.9
California	52
Colorado	50.7
Connecticut	49.6
Missouri	49.2
Georgia	48.7
Utah	47.6

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census via Federation of Tax Administrators

offset those changes, state rates haven't changed. So if states adopt the new, broader federal income tax base, it could mean higher state taxes for many.

New York shows one of the quandaries. Its Department of Taxation and Finance issued a report last week estimating that the federal government's new limit on business-interest deductions would yield \$45 million in tax revenue for New York. For individuals, a quirk of the way the personal exemption is written for single

filers in New York could mean an \$840 million tax increase, while the expanded federal child tax credit could cause a \$500 million state tax cut for households with children.

"States have some difficult choices to make," said Phil Olliff, a senior manager at the Pew Charitable Trusts who tracks state fiscal policy.

State lawmakers also are wrestling with how to adjust to the federal government's decision to limit deductibility of state and local income and property taxes. That move will

raise federal tax bills for some households in many high-tax states, such as New York and California. State lawmakers are exploring steps to soften that blow.

Colorado could get an additional \$3.2 billion to \$4.2 billion over the next decade, says Michael Hartman, executive director of the Department of Revenue. Democratic Gov. John Hickenlooper wants to put that money into infrastructure, education and the state's rainy-day fund. Senate President Kevin Grantham, a

Republican, said the state could use added revenues to fund up to \$3 billion in bonds to widen Interstates 25 and 70 and make other infrastructure investments.

In Minnesota, Republican State Rep. Greg Davids, chairman of the House Taxes Committee, said he was trying to figure out who would pay more in state taxes, then change state law to reverse that effect. "Of course my good friend the governor has a wish list of things he wants," he said, speaking of Democratic

Gov. Mark Dayton. "I want to get the money back to the people who paid it in. So we have some differences."

Asked to comment, Mr. Dayton's office deferred to the state's Department of Revenue, which says it is still studying the federal-tax law and looking forward to working with legislators.

Businesses are watching cautiously, too. As the federal corporate tax rate drops to 21% from 35%, state taxes will be an increasingly important part of corporate planning.

Many in the South Expect Tax Boon

Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam has a vastly different message about the new tax law than some of his fellow governors up North, and it can be summarized in three words: Bring it on.

The Republican, who is serving his second term as governor, says the old code advantaged residents in high-tax states because it allowed them to deduct an unlimited number of state and local taxes from federal ones.

"That's not going to be true anymore," Mr. Haslam said. "We governments have a price just like a business does. And, by the way, customers get to choose where they do business."

Southern states, where economic growth is outpacing Northern counterparts, are predicting that a new \$10,000 cap

on the federal deductions taxpayers can take for state and local taxes will make low-tax states more attractive for workers and businesses.

The South's optimism contrasts with worries in many Northern states that the changes will hurt their economies, where higher state and local taxes were offset, in part, by federal deductions for decades.

Southern states have been drawing migrants from Northern states for years, making it now the most populous region in the country—a demographic shift that Mark Vitner, a Charlotte, N.C.-based senior economist for Wells Fargo & Co., calls "the affordability migration."

Property tax rates in the North are generally higher than down South, according to a 2015 report by the Tax Foundation, a conservative Washington-based group that tracks taxation across the U.S. The foundation found

that the mean effective property tax rate in New York was 1.64% and 2.32% in Illinois, compared with 0.75% in Tennessee and 1.06% in Florida. Florida has no state income tax, while Tennessee has no state taxes on wages.

Job growth in the South has outpaced that in the Northeast in recent decades. Nonfarm employees in the region—as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau—of 16 states and the District of Columbia rose 23% between 1997 and 2016, outpacing the 17% growth of the national workforce, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. In the Northeast, growth was 12%.

The region, however, also has the highest rate of poverty of the regions tracked by the Census Bureau. And education levels are lower. For example, in Tennessee, 25% of people over 25 years old have a bachelor's degree or higher, compared with 35% of the

same population in New York. While people and businesses have been moving South for a host of reasons, "research shows taxes matter," said William Fox, an economist and director of the University of Tennessee's Boyd Center for Business & Economic Research.

Mr. Fox, who has studied migration to the South for years, said he expected the tax changes to have two main impacts for Southern states: more high-earners declaring their permanent residence in the region, and more middle-class workers relocating from the North.

Gov. Haslam said Tennessee and Southern neighbors have worked for years to keep taxes and other costs low in part to woo Northern migrants and businesses. The tax law "accelerates a trend that is already happening," he said.

—Cameron McWhirter and Arian Campo-Flores

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CORRECTIONS & AMPLIFICATIONS

Federal Reserve officials voted to raise rates in December to a range between 1.25% and 1.5%. An article Tuesday in the World Economic Forum Outlook 2018 section about the challenges facing Fed leadership incorrectly said rates rose to a range between 1.25% and 2.5%.

Reba McEntire made her de-

but as a singer in a hotel lobby in Cheyenne, Wyo. A Review article on Saturday about Ms. McEntire incorrectly said her debut was in Cheyenne, Okla.

The HBO show "Vice Principals" is about rival educators in South Carolina. A Business & Finance article Jan. 16 about HBO incorrectly said the show is set in Florida.

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

U.S. NEWS

Shooter Kills Two Students

BY VALERIE BAUERLEIN
AND CAMERON McWHIRTER

A 15-year-old boy shot and killed two students and wounded 12 more Tuesday at a Kentucky high school, Gov. Matt Bevin said.

A girl died at the scene at Marshall County High School in Benton, Ky., and a boy died while being treated at a trauma center, Mr. Bevin said. Both were 15.

The suspect was taken into custody peacefully at the scene, and will face murder and attempted murder charges, the governor said.

The student opened fire at 7:57 a.m., law-enforcement officials said. A 911 call was made at 7:59 a.m., and the first officers arrived on the scene at 8:06 a.m., said Kentucky State Police Commis-

sioner Richard Sanders.

Mr. Sanders didn't provide more details about the shooter or a possible motive. He said the investigation, involving Kentucky State Police, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other agencies, would take time. "There is a lot yet to be done," Mr. Sanders said.

Another five people were hurt during the incident in other ways, said Mr. Bevin. He said all of those injured and killed were believed to be students, but that officials were still investigating.

Benton is a town of 4,500 people in the southwestern part of the state. The governor described the shooting as "heartbreaking."

The shooting was among the first mass shootings of 2018, following a violent 2017.



A candlelight vigil at Impact Church in Benton, Ky., for victims of the Marshall County High School shooting Tuesday morning.

RYAN HERMEN/ THE PADUCAH SUN/ASSOCIATED PRESS

FBI Agent Was Wary of Probe Into Russian Meddling

BY DEL QUENTIN WILBER
AND ARUNA VISWANATHA

A top FBI agent expressed skepticism last spring about the burgeoning investigation into Trump associates' ties to alleged Russian electoral meddling, according to a newly released text message that was sent months before his texts critical of the president cost him his role in the probe.

The agent, Peter Strzok, sent a message to a colleague suggesting he was hesitant to join special counsel Robert Mueller's recently formed team investigating Russia's role in the 2016 election because "my gut sense and concern is there's no big there there."

Mr. Strzok sent the text just before 9 p.m. on May 18, the day after Mr. Mueller was tapped to be special counsel. Mr. Strzok supervised the investigation into Democrat Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server while she was secretary of state and was to become the lead agent on Mr. Mueller's team.

He was removed in July, however, after the Justice Department's inspector general uncovered numerous text messages between Mr. Strzok and Lisa Page, a lawyer at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in 2015 and 2016 that were highly critical of Mr. Trump, a Republican.

The text was made public by Sen. Ron Johnson (R., Wis.), chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

Mr. Johnson didn't release

Attorney General Faced Questioning

Attorney General Jeff Sessions was interviewed for several hours last week by the special counsel's office investigating alleged Russian meddling in the 2016 election, a Justice Department spokesman said.

Mr. Sessions recused himself from the investigation last year following the disclosure that he had conversations with a Rus-

sian official while advising the Trump campaign in 2016. That left his deputy, Rod Rosenstein, in charge of the Russia matter. The attorney general had been expected to be interviewed.

Special counsel Robert Mueller has been examining, among other things, whether anyone tried to obstruct the investigation, including through President Donald Trump's firing of former Federal Bureau of Investigation Director James Comey.

Both Mr. Sessions and Mr. Rosenstein were involved in Mr.

Comey's firing. Mr. Rosenstein was questioned by investigators in the summer. He has remained in charge of the probe.

Mr. Trump is also likely to answer questions from Mr. Mueller in coming weeks. Those questions are expected to focus on the Comey firing and on Mr. Trump's alleged request to Mr. Comey to ease off of an investigation of former national security adviser Mike Flynn, according to people familiar with the matter.

The special counsel is also expected to ask about Mr.

Trump's decision to fire Mr. Flynn, the people said. Mr. Trump at the time said Mr. Flynn's firing was because the national security adviser had misled Vice President Mike Pence.

Mr. Trump's personal attorneys, along with White House lawyer Ty Cobb, have discussed accepting written questions from Mr. Mueller and delivering written answers from the president to queries they deem appropriate, according to people familiar with the matter.

They are also considering allowing Mr. Trump to sit for an interview on certain topics, the people said. Former prosecutors say they are skeptical Mr. Mueller's team would be satisfied by written questions and answers. Mr. Cobb declined to comment, as did John Dowd, who heads Mr. Trump's private legal team.

Mr. Sessions is one of the highest-level officials to be interviewed by the special counsel's office. Mr. Mueller's office interviewed Mr. Comey last year, according to a person familiar with the matter.

Mr. Sessions' interview was reported earlier by the New York Times. The Justice Department spokesman, Ian Prior, declined to comment on the substance of the interview. A spokesman for Mr. Mueller declined to comment.

—Aruna Viswanatha
and Rebecca Ballhaus



Attorney General Jeff Sessions was interviewed last week as part of the Russia investigation.

any later texts from Mr. Strzok on the matter, so it wasn't clear how his thoughts on the investigation may have evolved.

Mr. Mueller has been examining, among other things,

whether anyone tried to obstruct the Russia investigation, including through Mr. Trump's firing of former Federal Bureau of Investigation Director James Comey.

Mr. Trump has denied any

links between his associates and Russia, although two of Mr. Trump's campaign advisers have pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about their contacts with Russia, including former national security

adviser Mike Flynn.

Mr. Mueller's team has indicted two other campaign officials, including Trump campaign Chairman Paul Manafort, for alleged financial misdeeds in work that pre-

dated the campaign. They have pleaded not guilty.

Fresh evidence also emerged on Tuesday that FBI Director Christopher Wray has pushed back on attempts by the administration to reassign FBI officials who were appointed by Mr. Comey.

One of those officials, Deputy FBI Director Andrew McCabe, has repeatedly been a target of Mr. Trump on Twitter, dating back to when his wife ran for a local office in 2015 with the support of a Clinton ally.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions has suggested to Mr. Wray that he should reassign Mr. McCabe, according to people familiar with the matter, but Mr. Wray has resisted such entreaties.

Mr. Wray respects Mr. McCabe for running the bureau as interim director after Mr. Comey's firing and for not engaging in a public dispute with the president, associates said.

Mr. Wray also doesn't want to be seen as bowing to political pressure, they said. Mr. Wray, who became FBI director in August, has begun taking steps to reshuffle the bureau's leadership.

A former law partner of Mr. Wray's, Zachary Harmon, takes over next week as chief of staff, and the bureau's general counsel, Jim Baker, was re-assigned in December.

Dana Boente, the acting head of the Justice Department's National Security Division, has agreed to take the general-counsel job, according to a person who knows him.

Deadly Shale-Drilling Blast Is Investigated

BY LYNN COOK
AND RUSSELL GOLD

Five workers were killed in a well explosion in Oklahoma, officials said Tuesday, in the deadliest shale-drilling accident since the upsurge in U.S. oil and gas production began a decade ago.

All five were in an office off the elevated drilling floor when the blast occurred on Monday morning about 150 miles east of Oklahoma City, said Chris Moore, sheriff of Pittsburg County, Okla.

Seventeen workers survived, including one who slid down a steel cable called a "Geronimo line" from the top of the drilling derrick. "There was an explosion, they heard a loud boom, seen a fire and they ran," Mr. Moore said.

The natural-gas well was being drilled by Patterson-UTI Energy Inc., a Houston-based drilling company, for operator Red Mountain Energy, a small, Oklahoma-based producer. Three of the victims were Patterson employees. Authorities haven't said who employed the two other victims.

Andy Hendricks, president and chief executive of Patterson since late 2012, said the company was intent on finding out what went wrong.

"This incident is an absolute tragedy," he said in an interview on Tuesday afternoon. "Our people are our priority."

A fire burned for most of the day after the initial blast at 8:45 a.m. on Monday, eventually toppling the drilling rig's derrick.

Attempts to remotely acti-

vate a blowout preventer—a series of valves and shear atop the well—and stop the unimpeded flow of gas were unsuccessful. On Monday night, workers were able to get close enough to the well bore to physically turn a mechanism that sealed off the well, ending the fire, according to Patterson.

"Our staff is absolutely devastated. This is the first time we've ever encountered anything like this," said Tony Say, president of Red Mountain Energy.

It wasn't a first for Patterson. Between 2010 and 2013, there were seven separate incidents resulting in seven deaths on Patterson drilling locations, according to data from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. That was one of the worst

safety records over that span for any land-based oil-and-gas company.

Since 2010, Helmerich & Payne Inc., the largest oil and gas well drilling company, has had two fatalities, according to federal records.

OSHA opened an investigation, but said it wouldn't have any new information until it was complete, a spokesman for the federal agency said.

The rig drilling used at the Red Mountain well was one of the industry's largest, fastest and most technologically advanced. A new one cost nearly \$25 million, according to industry advisory firm Evercore ISI.

It was outfitted with data recorders that could yield important drilling information, such as underground pressures, that may shed light on what caused the explosion. Patterson operates a fleet of 199 similar rigs.

The dead were identified as Josh Ray, 35, of Fort Worth, Texas; Matt Smith, 29, of McAlester, Okla.; Cody Risk, 26, of Wellington, Colo.; Parker Waldrige, 60, of Crescent, Okla.; and Roger Cunningham, 55, of Seminole, Okla.

Drilling and fracking for oil and gas is a dangerous—and often deadly—business. The work involves maneuvering heavy pieces of steel pipe and equipment and working with highly pressurized hoses. The drill floor and tanks can contain highly flammable gases.



Fires burned at an eastern Oklahoma drilling rig on Monday, where five people were killed.

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U.S. NEWS



Immigration advocates rallied in Washington on Tuesday, a day after the Senate GOP leader promised to bring to the floor a bill addressing 'Dreamers' in coming weeks.

Doctor in ICE Case Probed on Abuse Also

By ALICIA A. CALDWELL

A Michigan doctor whose arrest on immigration charges has drawn national scrutiny was separately investigated for child abuse within his family, according to people with knowledge of the investigation.

Dr. Lukasz Nieg, a 43-year-old native of Poland and green-card holder, was arrested a week ago at his Kalamazoo home. Federal officials said he had 18 encounters with local law enforcement, though they declined to describe the nature of most of those encounters.

A notice to appear in immigration court cited a pair of misdemeanor convictions from 1992, when he was 17, as the reason for his arrest.

However, an ICE official said that the child-abuse investigation factored into the agency's decision to arrest him on immigration charges. The doctor's sister and lawyer deny the abuse allegations against him.

Dr. Nieg's sister, Iwona Nieg Villaire, said the abuse investigation stems from a contentious previous relationship and the allegations are unfounded. She said "allegations of abuse

Dr. Nieg has lived legally in U.S. for 40 years and is a permanent resident.

Schumer Works to Mend Party Split

Top Senate Democrat makes his case against progressives who say he caved on shutdown

By NATALIE ANDREWS
AND JANET HOOK

WASHINGTON—Sen. Chuck Schumer, after leading Democrats into and out of a government shutdown, worked Tuesday to mend a breach in party ranks and to push back against progressive groups who said he capitulated to Republicans.

"We are a lot better off today when it comes to the cause of Dreamers than we were four or five days ago," Mr. Schumer said. "When there is a Republi-

can president and a Republican Senate and a Republican House that are quite recalcitrant against Dreamers, you are not going to get it all at once."

His comments came after fierce criticism from progressive activists, who accused Democrats of throwing in the towel without an agreement in hand to protect young immigrants known as Dreamers. The twin 81-18 votes Monday ending the shutdown also highlighted the splits within the caucus: The 16 senators of the Democratic caucus who voted against the bill comprised many of the party's progressives and possible 2020 presidential candidates.

The tensions between centrist lawmakers and the party's progressive wing aren't

new, but they were largely papered over during the past year as Democrats of all stripes united in opposition to President Donald Trump, fighting the attempted repeal of the Affordable Care Act and the GOP tax overhaul.

But progressive groups, energized by Democratic election wins in the Virginia governor and local races, as well as the Alabama Senate race last year, said the decision to end the shutdown was a dispiriting miscalculation.

"If you want to know why we lost in 2016 and why a Democratic wave in 2018 is far from guaranteed, despite the deep level of disgust for Donald Trump, look no further than this weak and profoundly disappointing cave from Sen-

ate Democrats," said Charles Chamberlain, executive director of Democracy for America.

Mr. Schumer had urged Democrats to join Republicans on Monday to fund the government and end the shutdown, following assurances from Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R., Ky.) that he would bring to the floor a bill addressing Dreamers in coming weeks. Many Democrats who had voted "no" on an unsuccessful effort Friday night to fund the government changed their vote on Monday, but more than a dozen didn't.

In his comments Tuesday, Mr. Schumer said he was "pleased" with the outcome of the debate because it turned the spotlight on the cause of the Dreamers and gave new

momentum to the effort to help them despite opposition from many Republicans. He also rescinded his offer to President Trump from Friday to provide funding for a border wall in exchange for an agreement to protect the young immigrants who were in danger of being deported because of the president's decision to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA.

"The wall offer is off the table," Mr. Schumer told reporters Tuesday. "That was part of a package....We're going to have to start on a new basis."

In a tweet Tuesday night, Mr. Trump responded, "Cryin' Chuck Schumer fully understands, especially after his humiliating defeat, that if there is no Wall, there is no DACA."

of their daughter were investigated by the state police and found without merit."

Michigan state police officials didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Dr. Nieg's attorney, Russell Abrutyn, said he was looking into the abuse allegations. "The little information I have now indicates that the charges are unsubstantiated and will be dismissed," he said.

A Michigan Child Protective Services official said he couldn't comment on the existence of child-abuse investigations in the state.

The White House has directed immigration authorities to focus efforts on both illegal immigration at the border and arresting immigrants living in the country who are suspected, accused or convicted of committing a crime. ICE said Tuesday that no class of immigrants will be exempted from immigration enforcement.

Dr. Nieg, an internal-medicine specialist, has lived legally in the U.S. for nearly 40 years and is a legal permanent resident. That status makes him more difficult to deport.

Dr. Nieg is being held by ICE in the Calhoun County Jail, about 100 miles west of Detroit, pending the outcome of his deportation case.

White House Dismisses Immigration Plan

By LOUISE RADNOFSKY

WASHINGTON—A leading bipartisan Senate immigration proposal is "totally unacceptable" to President Donald Trump and "should be declared dead on arrival," the White House said Tuesday, reaffirming a hard line on a contentious issue that has become entangled with U.S. government funding in recent weeks.

The proposed plan by three Democrats and three Republicans including GOP Sens. Jeff Flake of Arizona and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, and Democrat Dick Durbin of Illinois, was criticized by White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders on Tuesday.

The plan doesn't meet all four benchmarks set by Mr. Trump, Ms. Sanders said, including increased border-security funding, an end to the diversity visa-lottery program and family-based immigration



Sen. Lindsey Graham said on Tuesday that the plan was meant to jump-start the conversation.

and a "permanent solution" to the future of the young immigrants who were brought to the U.S. illegally as children, a

group sometimes known as the Dreamers.

"That was never even introduced," Mr. Flake said of the

Graham-Durbin plan. "Any immigration bill that we come up with will have some concepts from various bills, but we

never expected that to be the final product."

It "was never meant to be a bill—that was meant to be a proposal to jump-start the conversation we have," said Mr. Graham.

The Graham-Durbin plan would legalize the Dreamers, with a 10-to-12-year path to citizenship, and provide about \$2.7 billion in funding for border security and operations. It would end the diversity visa lottery, which randomly awards 50,000 green cards to would-be immigrants from underrepresented countries, and impose a modest limit on green-card holders to sponsor adult children for immigration to the U.S.

Elements of the Graham-Durbin plan are likely to be part of the coming Senate debate on immigration, which Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R., Ky.) promised in return for Democratic support for ending the government shutdown.

P&G said organic sales, a closely watched metric that strips out currency moves, acquisitions and divestitures, rose 2% in the quarter ended Dec. 31.

In all for its fiscal second quarter, the Cincinnati-based company reported earnings of \$2.5 billion, or 93 cents a share, down from a profit of \$7.88 billion, or \$2.88 a share, a year earlier. The prior year's quarter included a benefit from a divestiture. On an adjusted basis, earnings rose 10% to \$1.19 per share. Quarterly revenue rose 3.2% to \$17.4 billion.

P&G's decision to streamline its beauty business by selling the bulk of it to Coty Inc. in 2016 helped organic sales in the segment to jump 9%—the largest margin among company segments—during the quarter.

Kimberly-Clark said it would cut about 13% of its global workforce, or at least 5,000 jobs. The Irving, Texas-based company had entered 2017 predicting 2% organic sales growth but ended the year with flat sales. It expects just 1% growth for 2018.

—Imani Moise and Jonathan D. Rockoff contributed to this article.

SALES

Continued from Page One

utive Tom Falk said in an interview that P&G's discounting, along with pressure from retailers and a decline in the U.S. birthrate, have reduced demand for the company's baby-related products and other items. That is driving the industrywide push to cut prices, he said.

However, Mr. Falk said, the competition hasn't reached the intensity of previous eras.

"It's not the worst I've ever seen by far," he said, recalling a time in the 1990s when P&G cut diaper prices by 10%.

"There have been more aggressive price wars."

P&G, Kimberly-Clark and Johnson & Johnson reported earnings Tuesday. J&J CEO Alex Gorsky told analysts and investors on a conference call that the company's consumer-health business had maintained market share despite a "global category slowdown" for the goods. (See article on page B3.)

He acknowledged J&J needed to do more to accelerate the consumer-health unit's growth, and pledged to take a

number of steps. That includes "re-launching" the Johnson's Baby franchise, which includes baby shampoo, "with new formulations and new packaging to meet the purchasing preferences of millennial parents."

For its part, P&G aims to combat price pressure with new offerings and by focusing on the higher end of the market, where products have richer margins and shoppers

nouncing plans to slash prices across its Gillette razor brand amid market share losses to cheaper online competitors. But pricing also fell by 1% on average in its health care, household goods and personal-care units.

P&G has been under pressure from activist investor Trian Fund Management to improve its performance, and recently ended a high-profile proxy fight by giving Trian co-founder Nelson Peltz a seat on its board. Mr. Peltz has argued the company is overly complex and has failed to keep pace with recent trends.

Bernstein analyst Ali Dibadj questioned whether lower prices are a new reality for the industry, a particular concern for investors as prices on raw materials have been going up.

"Arguably you have been pricing below your market inflation rates for years now," Mr. Dibadj said on the call with P&G. In the consumer-products industry, "pricing not keeping up with inflation seems to be a bit of a trend now. Is this retailers pushing back? Are consumers saying, 'These are commodities?'"

In response, Mr. Moeller said, "You are right to point to this as a pain point in the im-

mediate present."

Price reductions by big household brands are overdue, said Gary Stibel, founder of New England Consulting Group in Westport, Conn., in an interview.

"Prices have gone so high they've made themselves vulnerable to discounters," he said. "When you take pricing [increases] year after year, you raise the umbrella to a point that others can slip un-

derneath it."

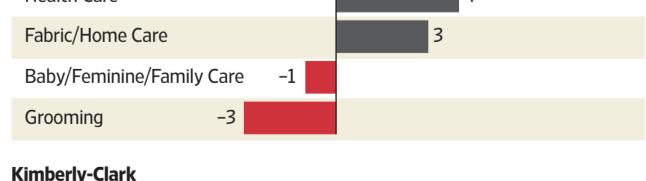
U.S. pricing on Kimberly-Clark's disposable diapers dropped 0.8% last year, while P&G's diaper prices fell 0.4%, according to Nielsen figures provided by Wells Fargo. Paper-towel prices slid 2.7% last year for Kimberly-Clark, while P&G's paper-towel prices rose 1.8%. Nielsen's figures exclude online sales, some retailers and promotional activity, such as coupons.

Under Pressure

P&G's price cut across its Gillette brand contributed to a sales decline in grooming, while Kimberly said a lower birth rate hurt demand for tissues.

Organic sales, change from previous year (latest quarter)

Procter & Gamble



Kimberly-Clark



Notes: Organic sales exclude currency changes, acquisitions and divestitures

Source: the companies

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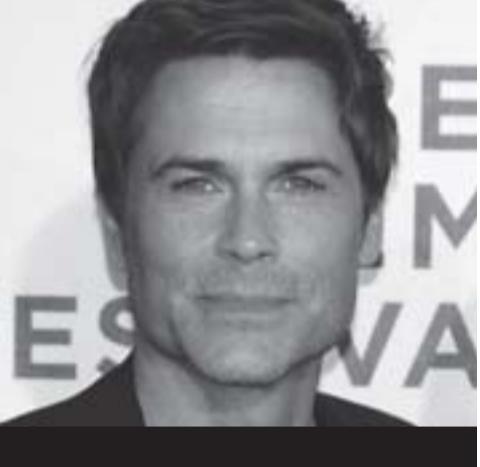
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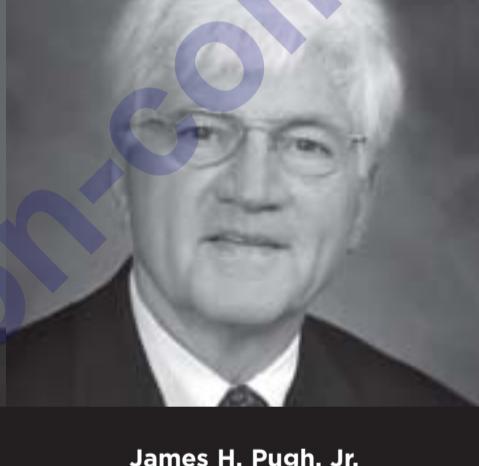
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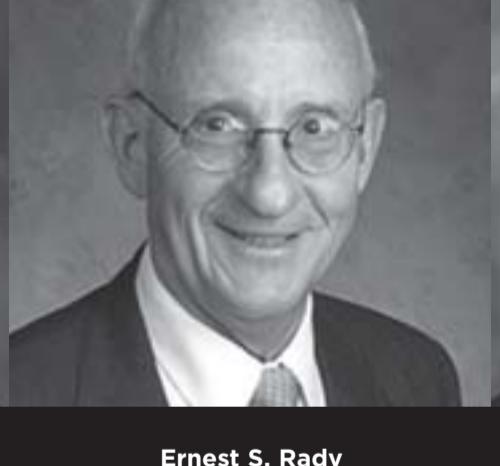
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U.S. NEWS

Discord Arises Over Tariffs' Impact

BY ERIN AILWORTH
AND ANDREW TANGEL

President Donald Trump's move to slap tariffs on imported solar panels and washing machines is meant to revive domestic industries struggling to fend off foreign competition. But in the affected sectors, there is little agreement on whether it will jump-start U.S. manufacturing and jobs.

Solar-industry leaders said tariffs will slow growth in solar-panel installations and in the jobs they create, which are more plentiful than in solar-cell manufacturing, a relatively small industry in the U.S.

South Korean and U.S. washing-machine makers, meanwhile, tussled over whether the trade restrictions will help or hurt domestic employment, with foreign manufacturers arguing that they will hamstring their efforts to make more appliances at new plants in America.

The tariffs, announced Monday and signed by Mr. Trump in the Oval Office on Tuesday, signaled a broader policy aimed at prodding foreign companies to shift production to the U.S. as a way to boost manufacturing employment.

"We're going to benefit our consumers and we're going to create a lot of jobs," Mr. Trump said.

But the most immediate impact may be retaliation by trade partners, as well as an invitation for more U.S. companies to seek help, said Chad P. Bown, a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington. That, in turn, could trigger additional trade skirmishes and fallout for U.S. workers and consumers.

"This is now really starting to escalate," Mr. Bown said. "The concern is that now we're at a tipping point."

The solar trade protection—which applies to solar panels as well as cells, the solar-panel components that convert sunlight into electricity—is a 30% tariff in the first year, declining to 15% by a fourth year. The first 2.5 gigawatts of

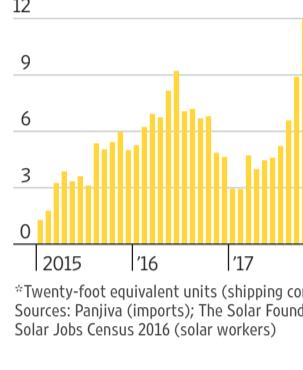


Workers installing a solar panel on a home in Palmetto Bay, Fla., on Tuesday, a day after the U.S. announced new tariffs.

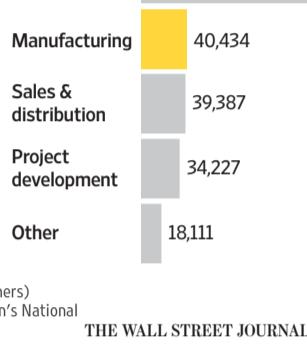
Bright Spots

A new U.S. trade initiative aims to protect solar manufacturing from soaring imports, but most employment in the sector lies elsewhere.

Total imports of solar panels



Solar workers, 2017 projection



THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

cells imported annually are exempt from the tariff.

Domestically produced solar panels roughly accounted for 10% of installed solar capacity in the U.S. in 2017, according to GTM Research.

The tariff split the U.S. solar industry, with panel sellers and installers largely opposing it on grounds that it will drive up consumer prices, causing sales to slow and leading to a loss of related sales and installation jobs.

The Solar Energy Industries Association forecast that the trade protections will cost 23,000 U.S. jobs this year and cause billions of dollars in solar investments to be delayed or canceled.

"When costs go up, prices go up," said Ed Fenster, co-founder and executive chairman of leading home solar installer Sunrun Inc.

Critics noted that the two companies that petitioned the federal government for relief in the form of import tariffs were imperfect beneficiaries for an "America First" trade policy, as both are foreign-owned: SolarWorld Americas Inc., by a German company, and Suniva Inc., owned in part by a Chinese manufacturer.

But some solar manufacturers expressed optimism. Juergen Stein, chief executive of SolarWorld Americas, said he was hopeful that the tariffs and quotas Mr. Trump ap-

In South Carolina, Resistance to Levies

South Carolina, a state that strongly backed President Donald Trump, isn't happy about his move to impose hefty tariffs on imported washing machines.

That is because South Korea's Samsung Electronics Co. recently started production at a \$380 million manufacturing plant in the state, hiring 600 employees and promising to expand as it increases production for the U.S. market.

Republican Gov. Henry McMaster and other GOP state leaders expressed concern that the tariffs would slow production at the new factory and have a chilling effect on investment. A spokesman said the governor is "obviously disappointed."

U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford, another South Carolina Republican, said protectionist policies and tariffs, while politically popular, are economically dubious. "This is a mistake," he said.

U.S. trade officials said the tariffs are critical to protecting American companies.

—Valerie Bauerlein

stration is imposing 20% tariffs on the first 1.2 million units annually, then 50% on those imported after that. It is also putting in place a 50% tariff on washer parts. The protections phase down over three years.

About 25% of the 9.3 million residential washers sold in the U.S. in 2016 were imported, according to Kyle Peters, an appliance analyst at the Freedonia Group.

The tariff spurred Whirlpool Corp., which petitioned for relief, to announce that it had added 200 new full-time positions to a washer plant in Clyde, Ohio, to meet an expected boost in demand. The factory already employs more than 3,000 people.

"The new hires are just the beginning of increased investments in innovation, manufacturing and additional manufacturing jobs for Whirlpool and its vendors," the Michigan-based appliance giant said.

But Whirlpool's South Korean competitors said workers at their own U.S. factories will be hurt, along with American consumers, who they and others predict will pay higher prices.

Samsung Electronics Co. said it has hired more than 600 workers for a washer factory in South Carolina.

LG Electronics Inc., meanwhile, is racing to build a factory in Tennessee, which it plans to open by year's end.

David MacGregor, an appliance-industry analyst at Longbow Research, said LG and Samsung, already facing big challenges as they ramp up their U.S. washer factories, now will have to deal with a tariff on imported parts.

"The president is playing hardball," Mr. MacGregor said.

Both companies previously warned that new trade barriers could slow the pace of their projects. "This tariff is a tax on every consumer who wants to buy a washing machine," a Samsung spokeswoman said. "Everyone will pay more, with fewer choices."

—Jacob M. Schlesinger contributed to this article.

Canada, Mexico Seek Nafta Harmony

BY PAUL VIEIRA

MONTREAL—The chief negotiators for Canada and Mexico vowed flexibility and cooperation in trying to address the toughest U.S. demands for a renegotiated North American Free Trade Agreement.

They said they hoped to make progress at the sixth round of Nafta talks, which formally opened in Canada's second-largest city on Tuesday. After a stalemate in the fall, the Montreal talks are widely seen as a make-or-break moment for the trade pact.

U.S. President Donald Trump said in Washington on Tuesday that Nafta talks were "moving along pretty well," but reiterated he was prepared to terminate the pact if negotiations falter.

Canadian and Mexican officials said they were ready to finalize chapters on telecommunications and anticorruption measures, while laying the ground work on compromise with the U.S. on the thorniest issues.

"We have come to Montreal with a lot of new ideas and creative strategies to bridge some of the gaps. We have high hopes for making progress but of course it depends on the other partners as well," said Steve Verheul, Canada's chief Nafta negotiator.

Mr. Verheul said Canada was bringing new proposals to address the auto sector, where the U.S. is taking a harder line.

The Trump administration has proposed that to qualify for duty-free trade among the three countries, North American-made light vehicles must have regional content of 85%, up from 62.5%, and that at least half of the parts be U.S.-made. Canada and Mexico oppose those changes.

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TRADE

Continued from Page One
forum Tuesday with a speech that didn't mention Mr. Trump by name, but appeared aimed at him.

"Many societies and countries are becoming self-focused. Globalization is shrinking," Mr. Modi said, adding that this trend was as grave a challenge as terrorism. "Protectionism and its forces are rearing their heads."

In response to criticism of Mr. Trump's trade policy, Gary Cohn, the head of the White House National Economic Council, said Tuesday: "Look, the U.S. is pulling back from nothing." He added: "American first does not mean America alone."

U.S. officials said that as they put forth more aggressive trade policies in the coming weeks, they will try to persuade skeptical allies that their actions are intended to improve the international economic system, not destroy it. The underlying message: The U.S. is neither retreating from trading partners nor fighting them.

"A strong U.S. economy benefits the world, having fair and reciprocal trading relationships help the world, and the U.S. is engaged in trying to help the global economy through reforms like that," a White House trade official said. "That's a message you're going to see us using more frequently in the near future."

Mr. Trump's emerging trade policy involves three main components, each advanced in different forms this week.

The first is ramping up trade-enforcement actions, like the broad, steep tariffs announced Monday aimed at protecting U.S. makers of solar panels and washing machines. Administration officials said more of these types of protections are coming, with studies under way for action on steel and aluminum.

The U.S. also plans to assess moves against an array of Chinese goods and investments in retaliation for China allegedly pressuring U.S. companies to turn over valuable intellectual property.

"You'll see what's going to take place over the next number of months," Mr. Trump said during an Oval Office ceremony



President Donald Trump signs actions on solar panels and washing machines as Robert Lighthizer, his chief trade negotiator, watches.

Tuesday to sign the solar and washer actions.

The second part of the trade agenda is either shunning pacts negotiated by previous administrations, like TPP, or rewriting them. A large delegation of U.S. trade negotiators is in Montreal this week to press Canada and Mexico for concessions to rebalance the North American Free Trade Agreement in ways aimed at steering manufacturing from Mexico back to the U.S.

Mr. Trump's chief trade negotiator, Robert Lighthizer, has indicated that if his counterparts don't show sufficient compromise in this round, Mr.

Many societies and countries are becoming self-focused.'

Trump will be more inclined to pull the U.S. out of the quarter-century-old pact.

"Nafta is moving along pretty well," Mr. Trump said Tuesday, but added: "I happen to be of the opinion that if it doesn't work out, we'll terminate it."

The third element of the policy agenda is to shake up the World Trade Organization, the overseer of the global trading system since 1995. Administration officials said the Geneva body too often rules against U.S. interests, and doesn't do enough to rein in China's state-driven trading system.

To make its point, the U.S. is blocking appointments to the WTO's court responsible for ar-

bitrating trade disputes between members, a move that risks gumming up the world commercial legal system.

In a tense meeting of world trade officials in Geneva on Monday, Mexico introduced a proposal backed by nearly 60 WTO members demanding the U.S. end its filibuster. Eighteen delegates—including those from Canada, Europe, and China—spoke to support the proposal, one warning of "major consequences" for the WTO. The U.S. representative declined to yield.

As the administration advances those three goals, officials are honing their message for how they plan to explain the significant shifts in U.S. international economic policy to allies and trading partners.

One theme: "We're not turning away from the system, we're saying the system needs to be reformed to survive," the White House trade official said.

Mr. Trump said Tuesday: "There won't be a trade war."

While Mr. Trump has criticized multilateral trade agreements like TPP, Mr. Cohn said that the administration is eager to expand global trade through bilateral agreements, and said that Mr. Lighthizer "is working on a bunch of different agreements."

Mr. Cohn declined, though, when pressed to identify any specific agreements under way, and countries the administration has identified as priorities for new trade pacts, such as Japan, have actively shunned overtures for a new bilateral pact.

Japan and other TPP participants have instead chosen to strike new deals elsewhere.

—Emre Peker in Brussels contributed to this article.

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

Warning Signs Dent Growth Confidence

Davos attendees point to geopolitical risks, market complacency and length of recovery

BY STEPHEN FIDLER

DAVOS, Switzerland—The world economy is accelerating and the financial markets are going gangbusters. But there is an undertone of anxiety among delegates at the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum.

The Davos meeting is famous for failing to anticipate political events: Only a tiny minority of the business, political and academic leaders that attended the forum in recent years foresaw Brexit and the election of Donald Trump. But there is strong awareness this year that geopolitical risks—including that of a potential conflict with North Korea and a U.S. trade war with China—are not adequately reflected in financial-asset prices.

In a reminder of the risks of a trade war, the Trump administration this week levied steep tariffs on imports of solar panels, aimed mainly at China, and washing machines, hitting mainly South Korea.

At an address at the start of the four-day event, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for greater international



There is strong awareness at Davos this year that financial-asset prices don't reflect current geopolitical risks, including a potential U.S. trade war with China.

cooperation on issues such as climate change and cited the rise of protectionism as a threat facing the world. "Many societies and countries are becoming self-focused. Globalization is shrinking," Mr. Modi said.

Geopolitics aren't the only factor driving caution. Even as the International Monetary Fund stepped up its growth projections for this year and next, Maurice Obstfeld, its chief economist, warned here Monday that "the next recession

may be closer than we think," describing policy-maker complacency as the "overarching risk." He called on governments to extend the recovery by enacting further economic overhauls and bolstering defenses against financial instability.

His message was echoed by others close to the financial markets. "Complacency in the markets is a key risk: Valuations are at unprecedented levels," said Axel Weber, chairman of UBS AG, the Swiss bank, at a

lunch Tuesday of The Wall Street Journal's CEO Council.

André Bourbonnais, chief executive of PSP Investments, which manages close to \$140 billion Canadian dollars (\$US112 billion) of Canadian pension-fund assets, said. "Everyone feels, despite the exuberance in the market, that we need to dial down on the risk."

Driving the financial markets is a synchronized economic recovery in the U.S., Asia and Europe. "Markets are focused on

the business cycle rather than politics," said Michael O'Sullivan, chief investment officer for international wealth management at Credit Suisse.

Economists point out that the U.S. recovery is getting long in the tooth. Europe, meanwhile, has seen its economic momentum recently pick up after its long-delayed emergence from the euro crisis.

"The question is sustainability," said Ángel Gurria, secretary-general of the Organization

for Economic Cooperation and Development. "It's the difference between a boom and a recovery."

The key to extending the recovery is generating more investment, he said. Growth in investment and international trade is now roughly equal to the speed on overall economic expansion, he said. But to pull along the global economy, as a rule of thumb, trade and investment growth should be double that of the overall economy.

CEOs See Economy as Beneficiary of Trump Policies

BY DEBORAH BALL
AND JAMIE HELLER

DAVOS, Switzerland—Economic growth will remain robust over the coming year, sustained by pro-business policies around the world, a possible surge in investment and bullishness about major economies such as China and India, according to chief executives gathered at the World Economic Forum.

Corporate leaders gathered in Davos on Tuesday saw relatively few threats to a rare

moment of synchronized economic expansion among the world's major economies, with many crediting the administration of President Donald Trump for the bullishness.

"There is extreme optimism," said Sir Martin Sorrell, chief executive of ad group WPP PLC. "It is remarkable the psychological difference—whatever you think of Trump—that he has brought....It has improved [executives'] already very positive psychology."

Chief executives at The Wall Street Journal's CEO Council

lunch in Davos said the U.S. tax reform has provided a major boost to sentiment. If U.S. companies respond to the reform by repatriating profits stashed overseas and then investing at home, the expansion could continue for some time, they said.

Roger Crandall, chairman and CEO of Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Co., or MassMutual, underscored the change in regulatory conditions under Mr. Trump, calling it a huge plus for U.S. business.

Under the Trump adminis-

what is the one regulation we can change to make your business grow more quickly?"

One cloud on the horizon, however, could be inflation, the executives said. "We're seeing inflation pressures largely ignored," said Axel Weber, chairman of Swiss banking giant UBS Group AG and former chief of Germany's central bank. "We're starting to see output gaps closing, with tighter labor conditions and wage pressure....Inflation could come back as a surprise this year."

Some political and geopolit-

ical worries also loom. Some cited midterm congressional elections in the U.S. in November. A win by the Democrats could create a stalemate in Washington and stall progress on further pro-business policy making.

And the current exuberance in markets—many at record highs—is excessive, some said. Massive liquidity is driving yields down so far that "no one is getting the risk assessment they deserve," Mr. Weber said. "That cannot go on. Eventually it will stop."

IMF Cautions Global Boom Is Too Reliant on Easy Money

BY GREG IP

DAVOS, Switzerland—The world is enjoying its broadest, strongest growth in years, and everyone has an explanation, from the U.S. tax cut to the recovery in oil prices.

But for the International Monetary Fund, the answer is simple and disturbing: easy monetary policy.

In its outlook for the global economy released in Davos on Monday, the IMF credited the slow pace of interest-rate increase in the U.S. and the still-large balance sheet of the European Central Bank for why it believes growth rose 3.7% in 2017, its strongest gain since 2011, and will rise 3.9% this year. Both are up slightly from projections released in October.

Coupled with the booming stock market, that growth has produced head scratching among the business and political leaders gathered here, preoccupied by risks ranging from populism to climate change.

"It is a puzzle," said IMF chief economist Maury Obstfeld. The tax cut explains nearly all of the upgrade in the U.S. growth projection this year to 2.7% from 2.3%, and smaller amounts for the U.S.'s trade partners, thus less than half of the world's upward revisions.

The tax cut explains some of the stock market's run-up.



IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde speaking in Davos.

But Mr. Obstfeld notes, "Stock markets are booming in a lot of countries that have not had tax cuts." Moreover, the regions with the most striking upgrades to their growth outlooks were Europe and Asia, not the U.S.

This leads him to attribute the pickup to central banks' still-highly stimulative monetary policy. This seems odd given that the Federal Reserve has been raising interest rates and several other central banks are preparing to do so. But the fact bond yields had been so low until recently suggests the pace of tightening has still been historically modest.

One result is extremely high

valuations for stocks. At a low enough interest rate, almost any valuation can be justified.

But, Mr. Obstfeld noted, that makes the market acutely vulnerable to a shift in perception about rates that would hurt valuations. And, he added in a related blog post, the current upturn "is unlikely to become a 'new normal.'"

Markets, he said in an interview, "are excessively sure that central banks can solve every problem, and they can't, and they've been telling us they can't. We need fiscal policy, and governments are so indebted now the fiscal space they have is much more limited than a decade ago."

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President to Meet With Leaders

BY REBECCA BALLHAUS

President Donald Trump will give an address and meet with foreign leaders including U.K. Prime Minister Theresa May and Rwandan President Paul Kagame while in Davos, Switzerland, for the World Economic Forum later this week, the White House said Tuesday.

Mr. Trump is set to leave for Davos late Wednesday, a day after the U.S. delegation led by Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin headed overseas

for the gathering.

On Thursday, Mr. Trump will meet with Mrs. May in their first talks since the president canceled a planned visit to the U.K. He will also meet Thursday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

On Thursday evening, Mr. Trump will host a reception with world leaders and a dinner with "select European companies," where he will encourage them to "continue to invest in the U.S.," National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn said.

On Friday, Mr. Trump will meet with Mr. Kagame, the chairman of the African Union, which issued harsh criticism of the U.S. president following a senator's assertion this month that Mr. Trump questioned why the U.S. would want to accept people from African nations that he reportedly called "shithole countries." Mr. Trump has denied using that language.

Mr. Trump will then make a speech expected to focus on his administration's "America First" policy.

WORLD NEWS

Qatar Says Rivals Meddled in Markets

Central bank writes to regulators, calling for an investigation into alleged manipulation

By BRADLEY HOPE

Qatar alleged that Gulf countries with which it is involved in a political dispute have attacked its currency through "blatant, unlawful market manipulation," according to letters sent by the Qatar Central Bank to global regulators on Monday.

It also accused its rivals, including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, of planning to target its bonds and coordinating efforts to pull funds from Qatari banks to create a liquidity shortage, the letters said.

"They have caused damage to financial markets worldwide, including in the U.S.,

where Qatari government bonds are traded over the counter," wrote Daniel Kramer, a lawyer at the New York firm Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP, and other attorneys for Qatar in a letter to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission on behalf of the central bank.

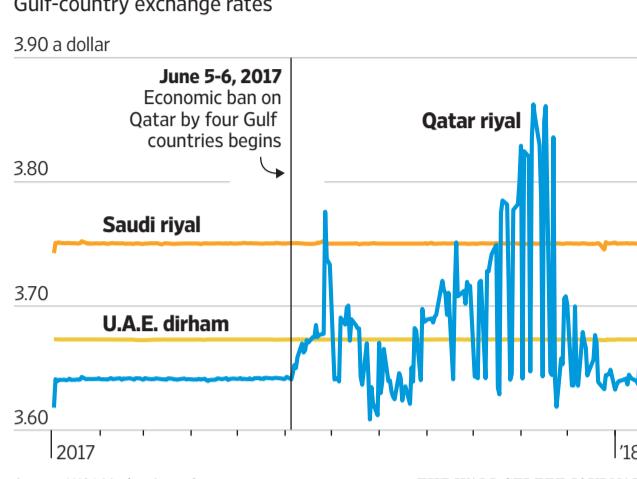
"They should be halted immediately, and we ask that the Securities and Exchange Commission to immediately investigate the issues presented." The SEC declined to comment.

The letters—also sent to regulators in the U.K. and Luxembourg—pointed to what they called "extremely suspicious movements in the currency markets that are only explained by attempts to manipulate the markets."

Beginning in June 2017, several financial institutions began posting offers to buy and sell Qatari riyals at levels significantly higher than the 3.64

Heightened Activity

Gulf-country exchange rates



Source: WSJ Market Data Group

rate Qatar has pegged to the U.S. dollar.

The activity "reinforced the manufactured narrative that Qatar's currency was increasingly volatile and its economy

that began last year. The U.A.E. and Saudi Arabia cut ties with Qatar, accusing it of supporting extremist organizations and terrorist groups.

Qatar denies it supports terrorism and has refused demands from its rivals to curb diplomatic relations with Iran, sever ties with the Muslim Brotherhood and shutter the Al Jazeera television network. Multiple mediation efforts have so far failed, leading both sides to dig in for a long battle, said people advising both sides on the matter.

Qatar's financial system is under pressure. Fitch Ratings in August downgraded the country's credit rating to double-A-minus from double-A because of geopolitical risks related to the diplomatic standoff, which it said was "unlikely to be resolved for some time."

Qatar's Central Bank filings show a flood of money out of

its financial system after the diplomatic standoff began.

Qatar's Finance Minister Ali Al Emadi told The Wall Street Journal in November that Qatar authorities were investigating the possible manipulation of its currency. "These tactics are not only unethical, but they give misleading information for international investors...about how the economy is doing," he said at the time.

Mr. Emadi and the Qatar Central Bank declined to comment on the letters sent Monday.

An adviser to a Gulf country said regional banks were wary. "Financial institutions have most definitely reacted to the increased political and economic risk in Qatar and Qatari-denominated assets, resulting in some distinct market dynamics," the adviser said.

—Summer Said
and Nikhil Lohade
contributed to this article.

Political Hopeful Is Arrested in Egypt

By JARED MALSIN

CAIRO—Egyptian authorities arrested a former military chief who planned to run for president, his campaign said, potentially eliminating one of the strongest remaining challengers to state-backed President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi in March elections.

In a statement on national television on Tuesday, the military leadership accused Sami Anan, who continues to serve as a lieutenant general reserve officer, with what it called "violations and crimes," including forging documents and declaring his candidacy without military authorization.

The statement, which was read by a narrator who didn't appear on screen, also accused the general of incitement aimed at "driving a

wedge between the armed forces and the Egyptian people."

Mr. Anan's campaign had previously rejected the argument that his position in the military precluded him from running. Campaign officials didn't immediately respond to the military's allegations.

"Mr. Anan was just presented to military trial. It's horrible," said Mahmoud Reafaat, a Brussels-based lawyer and spokesman for the candidate. He said he didn't know which branch of the security forces had arrested Mr. Anan.

The would-be candidate, who served until 2012 as chief of staff, the military's second-highest-ranking position, is the fourth presidential hopeful to be detained or charged before the election. Were he to be prosecuted, Mr. Anan could be disqualified from

participating in the contest under Egyptian law.

A former commander of the armed forces, Mr. Sisi came to power following a military coup in 2013, and his government is widely perceived to have the backing of the pow-

Former chief of staff Sami Anan was held on what the military called 'violations.'

erful military. Mr. Anan's candidacy had offered the strongest signal to date of political splits within its highest ranks.

He was the second top general to announce a presidential campaign against Mr. Sisi. The other, former Prime Min-

ister Ahmed Shafiq, once an air force commander, ended his candidacy after he was placed under apparent house arrest in a Cairo hotel.

A statement posted to the candidate's Twitter account claimed Mr. Anan's team had been "abducted from his car."

A military statement said only that he had been summoned.

Mr. Anan announced his candidacy officially in a video released over the weekend, launching a campaign that criticized the president's handling of the economy and Egypt's security situation.

Over the past three days, Mr. Anan's candidacy had gained momentum, capturing broad attention among Egyptians on social media and became a nightly subject of debate on the country's national political talk shows.



MOHAMED ABD EL GHANY/REUTERS

Mr. Anan had criticized the leadership's handling of the economy.

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I didn't talk for a very long time

Jacob Sanchez
Diagnosed with autism

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AUTISM SPEAKS

Ad Council

WORLD NEWS

U.S. Faults Russia in Suspected Gas Strike

BY FELICIA SCHWARTZ

PARIS—Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said he is holding Russia accountable for a new chemical weapon attack believed to have been conducted by Syrian government forces near Damascus on Monday.

Moscow's failure to halt chemical strikes calls into question Russia's ability to participate in efforts to resolve the Syrian crisis, Mr. Tillerson said Tuesday at the end of a meeting of more than 20 countries on preventing chemical weapon use.

"Whoever conducted the attacks, Russia ultimately bears responsibility for the victims in east Ghouta, and countless other Syrians targeted with chemical weapons since Russia became involved in Syria," he said.

Mr. Tillerson said that more than 20 civilians, many of them children, were sickened in an apparent chlorine-gas attack Monday in eastern Ghouta.

Russia's ambassador to the United Nations, Vassily Nebenzia, said the chlorine attack was coordinated to undermine upcoming Syria peace talks.

"You are both the judge and the accuser," he told the U.N. during a session at the U.N. "It [the attack on Monday] did not accidentally emerge on the eve of important meetings on Syria in Vienna and Sochi."

The Syrian government has denied that it uses chemical weapons.

Mr. Tillerson said Russia hasn't lived up to an international deal reached in 2013 to destroy Syria's chemical weapon stockpile. He said there has been mounting evidence since April 2014 that Syria continues to possess chemical weapons.

A New German Home for Syrians

BY NOUR ALAKRAA
AND AYLA ALBAYRAK

BERLIN—A 3-mile-long axis that cuts through a working-class district here has become the place where recent migrants from Syria eat, shop, look for work and learn about their new home.

Germans know it as Sonnenallee, or "Sun Avenue," but to its new residents, the street, which once ended in a checkpoint between East and West Berlin, is "Arab Street."

More than one million asylum seekers, mostly from the Middle East and Afghanistan, have entered Germany since 2015 and leader Angela Merkel's open-arms policy toward migrants. Of those new arrivals, 80,000 have settled in Berlin.

On Sonnenallee, in a city where a third of inhabitants have migrant roots, the changes brought by the newcomers are unmistakable. Over the past three years, at least two dozen Syrian businesses have sprung up on the avenue and adjoining streets. They have transformed a neighborhood where established businesses were run by mostly Palestinians and Lebanese, but also Turks and Germans.

Any tensions from the influx have been blunted by a surge in commerce. At the hookah cafes, tea houses, halal butchers, barbers and internet cafes, homesickness is big business. Many new shops have names that evoke the distant, war-torn country, and some older businesses have changed their focus to pull in foot traffic.

Mudar el-Sheikh, 32 years old, walked across Turkey for more than a week to reach the European Union after fleeing Aleppo, Syria's largest city. A teacher back home, he got to Germany in 2014, ahead of the biggest wave of refugees to hit Europe since World War II.

Mr. el-Sheikh, who now teaches cooking classes in Berlin, said Sonnenallee offers



A jewelry shop on Berlin's Sonnenallee, an avenue known to some residents as 'Arab Street.'

more than the scents and flavors of Syria; he described it as a hub where newcomers can swap tips about how to navigate their new home, land a job or find a place to stay.

The migrant influx hasn't come without strains for the

neighborhood—or for Germany. It brought immigration to the center of national political debate.

A survey by the Bertelsmann foundation in April last year found that 54% of Germans surveyed thought the

country had reached its limit in accepting asylum seekers. While the inflow has slowed, almost 190,000 arrived last year.

In December, protests over U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to recognize Jerusa-

lem as the Israeli capital made their way from central Berlin to Sonnenallee. Images of the protests, some showing young men burning an Israeli flag, dominated the news for days and prompted warnings from some politicians that some migrants had brought dangerous views with them.

Around Sonnenallee, newer residents complained about young men who pack the hookah cafes, making noise and occasionally issuing catcalls at passing women.

"They have ruined the reputation of other migrants," said Mohammad al-Ahmad, a doctor from Syria who arrived in Germany in early 2016.

Many of the teenagers entered the country alone and were jobless and adrift, with no experience of cultural diversity, he said.

But for many shops on Sonnenallee, the new arrivals as a whole have been good for business. "Eighty percent of my customers are Arab and their number is growing," said fashion-shop owner Rania Ranoosh, who is from Egypt. "People come from outside Berlin to visit the Arab Street."

Some newcomers made a point of approaching established Arab businessmen for funding or advice on tackling German bureaucracy.

Anas Zeidan, 41, a textile trader from Azaz, a northern Syrian town, sought help from a local German-Lebanese to open his chicken shawarma shop on Sonnenallee.

The cost of entry on the avenue is rising, pushed by brisk business and a broader property boom in the city. With his restaurant employing 10 Syrian refugees, Mr. Zeidan is working on his next opening, near Düsseldorf, with his brother.

"I hope to expand more. I want to apply for German citizenship, do everything properly and legally, and hire more Syrian refugees," he said, "and show the Germans that Syrians are productive."

As Turkey Invades, the Kurds See Betrayal Once Again

MIDDLE EAST CROSSROADS

By Yaroslav Trofimov

In Kurdish history, there's a betrayal that looms large. In the 1970s, the U.S. armed Kurdish fighters to rise up against Saddam Hussein in Iraq, as part of an effort to help the pro-American Shah of Iran. Then, once the Shah suddenly struck his own deal with Saddam and no longer needed the Kurds, Washington simply walked away, ignoring

Kurdish pleas to help avert an imminent bloodbath.

"Covert action," then U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger famously told a congressional committee, "should not be confused with missionary work."

Today, as four decades ago, the Kurds in both Syria and Iraq are realizing just how disposable they are to the regional—and global—powers.

That's especially so now that Kurdish help is no longer needed in the campaign to

topple Islamic State, and as geopolitical alliances shift. In northern Syria, the American- (and until recently Russian-) backed Kurdish forces this week came under a military onslaught by NATO ally Turkey, which is seeking to capture the Kurdish area of Afrin on its border, and threatens to invade other Kurdish-held regions of Syria further east.

In Iraq, a different military operation by the U.S.-backed federal government seized key territories from Kurdish forces in October. Baghdad continues economic sanctions against northern Iraq's self-ruled Kurdistan region, holding out the prospect of further military action.

In both cases, the U.S. didn't condemn these military operations, limiting itself to calls for restraint and for avoiding civilian casualties. Russia, meanwhile, appears to have allowed the Turkish air force to operate in Syrian airspace, and facilitated the Turkish incursion by withdrawing Russian forces that had been deployed in Afrin.

Because of the Kurds' long history of disappointments, the Syrian Kurdish leadership wasn't surprised, said Etugrul Kurkcu, a veteran lawmaker from Turkey's mostly Kurdish People's Democratic Party, or HDP, a close ally of the main Syrian Kurdish movement known as YPG. "Their cooper-

ation with the Russian Federation and the U.S.A. was on a tactical basis, and their awareness of the U.S. and Russian Federation's impending tendency to desert them under Turkish pressure had already grown," Mr. Kurkcu said. "As they say, their strategic ally is the mountains."

In part, deserting the Kurds has been made easier by mistakes by Kurdish politicians themselves.

In Iraq, the Kurdistan regional government disregarded Western appeals not to hold an independence referendum in September, and failed to maintain a democratic system of governance—allowing Baghdad to split Kurdish unity. In northern Syria, YPG—an affiliate of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, a Kurdish movement from Turkey that is considered a terrorist group by the U.S. and Turkey—has established an even more authoritarian one-party statelet.

Yet, despite these flaws, the main reason the Kurds are once again abandoned by their Western allies is realpolitik.

For Washington, not siding with the federal government of Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi would have pushed Iraq, with its massive oil reserves, even closer into an alignment with U.S. arch-enemy Iran. Actively opposing the Turkish operation in Afrin would have accelerated



Turkish soldiers training with their tanks at Hatay, near the Syria-Turkey border, on Tuesday.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's movement away from NATO and into an ever-tighter relationship with President Vladimir Putin.

In fact, Russia acquiesced to the Turkish operation in Afrin precisely because prying Turkey away from the West is a far more important geopolitical objective to the Kremlin than friendship with the stateless Kurds.

"The necessity of maintaining at least a tactical alliance with Turkey is self-evident for Russia, even if it creates problems," said Andrei Kortunov, head of the Russian International Affairs

Council, a think tank affiliated with the Russian foreign ministry. "The entire region is changing course, and Russia and Turkey today have avenues for cooperation that they didn't have before."

The U.S., which unlike Russia didn't have troops in Afrin, was in no position to prevent the Turkish operation there. The big question now is whether Mr. Erdogan will deliver on his threats to also attack the bigger Kurdish-held enclave in eastern Syria—and whether the U.S. forces deployed there will try to prevent such an on-

slaught, as they did during a smaller Turkish-backed offensive against Manbij last year.

James Jeffrey, a former U.S. ambassador to Turkey and Iraq and a scholar at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, said he expected the U.S. would "react strongly" to any Turkish move against Manbij or other parts of Kurdish-held eastern Syria. But, he added, there are limits to U.S. willingness to oppose Mr. Erdogan: "As U.S. and Russian reactions to Afrin show, Turkey is a serious player and the U.S. has no hopes to impact events in Syria long-term without Turkey."

Venezuela Calls Early Elections Amid Disarray in Opposition

BY KEJAL VYAS
AND MAYELA ARMAS

CARACAS—Venezuela will hold presidential elections before the end of April, the government said Tuesday, as President Nicolás Maduro looks to consolidate power amid a punishing economic crisis and escalating international sanctions.

Despite worsening food shortages that have the oil-rich country teetering on a humanitarian crisis, Mr. Maduro's ruling Socialist Party is rushing to hold the vote as

soon as possible to take advantage of disarray in the ranks of the political opposition, which has struggled to counter the leftist leader's increasingly autocratic rule, election observers and Western diplomats say.

The so-called National Constituent Assembly, an all-powerful government body created last year of elements loyal to the president, decreed elections to be held before April 30.

Mr. Maduro, who polls show is disliked by three out of four Venezuelans, hasn't confirmed whether he will

seek re-election to a six-year term. That didn't constrain some of his allies on Tuesday from saying the 55-year-old former bus driver and union activist will be their man.

"We're not going to have any problems with a revolutionary candidacy," said Diosdado Cabello, the ruling party's second-in-command. "We already have a candidate: Nicolás Maduro."

The hurried push for elections, which by law could have been called any time this year, throws a wrench into fraying negotiations in the Dominican

Republic between the Venezuelan government and the opposition that are meant to ease the country's political and economic crisis. The opposition is demanding free and fair elections with the participation of international observers, which the Maduro administration has rejected.

Mexican Foreign Minister Luis Videgaray said his country was withdrawing from its role as mediator in the talks because Venezuelan authorities called for elections unilaterally without any agreement between negotiators.



MARCO BELLO/REUTERS

President Nicolás Maduro speaking in Caracas on Tuesday.

WORLD NEWS

Mattis Hails U.S. Ties to Indonesia

BY BEN OTTO

JAKARTA, Indonesia—U.S. Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis pushed for more extensive security ties Tuesday with Indonesia, part of a new drive to shore up Southeast Asian countries against intimidation by China in the South China Sea.

Mr. Mattis is making a short tour that will also take him to Vietnam days after he described China as using “predatory economics” to extend control over its smaller neighbors.

In Jakarta, Mr. Mattis described Indonesia as the “maritime fulcrum” of the region and said the countries will work to improve comprehensive monitoring in the Natuna

Sea, a part of Indonesia that has seen an increase in Chinese maritime activity.

Indonesian Defense Minister Ryamizard Ryacudu said that South China Sea tensions had eased recently with Beijing engaging more with individual claimants and the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Jakarta drew Beijing’s ire last year when it named the southern fringes of the South China Sea after the Natunas island chain and stepped up a drive to build airstrips, a fishing industry and security patrols there to consolidate its hold on the territory.

President Joko Widodo took the symbolic move of holding a cabinet meeting on a navy ship there.

DARREN WHITESIDE/REUTERS

U.S., Beijing Diverge on Foundation of Trade



CHINA'S WORLD

By Andrew Browne

SHANGHAI—Judged by recent standards, Marriott International Inc.’s corporate apology in China was particularly abject.

Jakarta drew Beijing’s ire last year when it named the southern fringes of the South China Sea after the Natunas island chain and stepped up a drive to build airstrips, a fishing industry and security patrols there to consolidate its hold on the territory.

The hotel chain had implied in a marketing survey that Taiwan is a separate country, along with Hong Kong, Macau and Tibet.

Though not altogether inaccurate—Taiwan has most attributes of statehood, including fixed borders and an army to defend those borders—it is heresy to say so. Beijing was incensed. Mattis kowtowed.

What else could it do?

A prickly nationalism has long been a hazard for foreign investors in China, and Marriott has aggressive expansion plans in the country. Beijing is adding demands for political correctness; the Communist Party is on a drive to set up cells in foreign businesses.

Many in the West thought it would be the other way around.

As China grew, they reckoned, its commercial standards and political values would gradually converge with their own. Wasn’t that the unspoken deal when China joined the World Trade Organization in 2001?

If it was, the bargain is

engagement. Marriott has joined a growing list of multinationals that have accommodated themselves not just to China’s increasingly onerous market regulation but its political sensitivities, too.

A number of Western academic publishers and internet companies have started censoring in China. Apple Inc. pulled apps from its store that enable Chinese users to circumvent the Great Firewall.

Many in the West thought it would be the other way around.

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If it was, the bargain is



The hotel company climbed down over political sensitivities.

the U.S. Trade Representative’s office decrying the U.S. decision to welcome China into the WTO as a mistake reflects a pessimistic view taking hold more broadly in Western capitals that China has no intention of integrating with a free-market global trading system.

The report errs in one important respect: The hope that WTO membership would propel China faster along a liberal track was supported by powerful trends at the time. “This was not deluded,” argues Daniel Rosen, an economist who worked on China’s WTO entry in Bill Clinton’s White House. “China was converging, to an extraordinary degree,” he writes, listing the withdrawal of the state from the economy, the rise of a private sector and a welcome mat that Beijing was rolling out for foreign investors.

Here is what actually happened: China changed course.

The transformation has gathered pace under President Xi Jinping. From the vantage point of the Chinese leadership in Beijing, U.S. capitalism and democracy are digging their own graves, while Donald Trump is trashing America’s global reputation. A recent Gallup poll shows U.S. leadership approval ratings around the world plunging to about the same level as China’s.

Mr. Xi sees a historic opportunity to ditch the U.S. template and advance the Chinese development model as a credible alternative. His signature Belt and Road initiative to join East Asia and Europe with transport and energy infrastructure is a sign of confidence that China has the ability to reshape the global trade and investment environment.

The dream of convergence is over; Robert Lighthizer, the hawkish U.S. trade representative, no longer bothers to try to negotiate market-opening concessions from China. His report reflects a conviction that the two economies are now divergent—essentially playing by a different set of rules, one open, the other neo-mercantilist.

China and the U.S. are on a collision course. Marriott and other multinationals in China will be caught in the middle.

South African Jazz Legend Dies at 78

BY JENNY GROSS

ing his 30-year exile, raised awareness about the South African government’s policy of racial segregation.

Hugh Masekela’s exile from South Africa was long and painful. But during his three decades away, he created a new sound, Afro-jazz, that proved a strategic weapon against apartheid back home.

The trumpet player, singer Hugh Masekela died in Johannesburg on Tuesday of prostate cancer. He was 78.

“A baobab tree has fallen, the nation has lost a one of a kind musician,” said Arts and Culture Minister Mthethwa. “We can safely say Hugh was one of the great architects of Afro-Jazz and he uplifted the soul of our nation through his timeless music.”

Mr. Masekela fused township rhythms with American blues and pop. His songs, many written in the U.S. dur-

Gabriele Steinhauser contributed to this article.

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OVER THE HUMP: India’s Border Security Force in New Delhi at a dress rehearsal on Tuesday for the Republic Day parade on Friday.

THE PHILIPPINES
Volcano Forces More Village Evacuations

The Philippines’ most active volcano spewed fountains of lava and giant ash plumes Tuesday in a dangerous eruption that has sent at least 56,000 villagers to shelter in evacuation centers.

Mount Mayon began acting up more than a week ago.

A violent eruption could occur in hours or days, characterized by rumblings and pyroclastic flows—superheated gas and volcanic debris that race down the slopes, vaporizing everything in their path, officials said.

No group immediately claimed responsibility.

Associated Press

LIBYA
At Least 27 Killed In Twin Bombings

Two car bombs exploded as people left a mosque in a residential area of the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi, said the first explosion went off around 8:20 p.m. Tuesday and the second bomb went off a half-hour later as residents and medics gathered to evacuate the wounded.

No group immediately claimed responsibility.

Associated Press



FROM PAGE ONE

CEO

John Fishwick, a Virginia attorney who submitted the proposal, in a video posted on Facebook. Mr. Fishwick owns 1,000 CSX shares.

The rule comes after a year in which Mr. Harrison’s health had overshadowed his attempt to turn around the railroad operator.

Mr. Harrison was named CEO following a brief battle with an activist shareholder. The shareholder wanted Mr. Harrison to implement a new operating plan at CSX modeled after prior turnaround he executed at two major Canadian railroads.

Mr. Harrison had a history of health issues and required use of an oxygen tank.

His hiring included an \$84 million payment to Mr. Harrison to cover compensation he left behind when he quit his job at another railroad to lead CSX.

CSX faced a difficult decision. Word that Mr. Harrison was interested in leading CSX added \$10 billion to the company’s market value. Blocking his appointment, even with unspecified health issues, likely would have caused shares to drop, analysts said at the time.

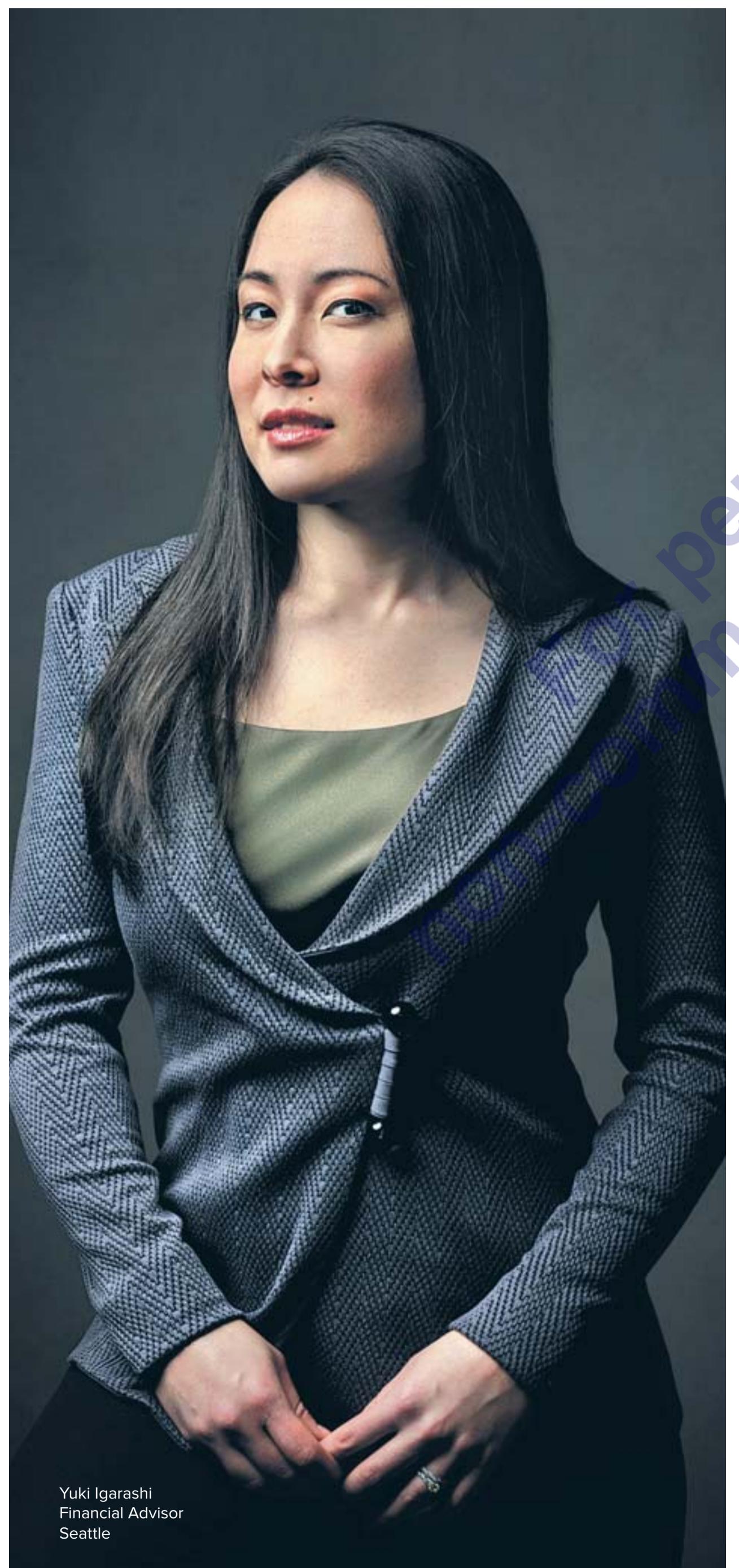
Mr. Harrison moved quickly to change CSX, idling hundreds of locomotives, closing several rail yards and overhauling train schedules, which caused delays during much of the summer. The railway has since recovered, although the company is still working to win back customers lost last year.

Mr. Harrison died two days after taking a medical leave of absence. Jim Foote, who was hired as Mr. Harrison’s No. 2 in October as three other senior executives were leaving, was named permanent CEO shortly after Mr. Harrison’s death.

Mr. Foote this month acknowledged that the speed at which Mr. Harrison made changes at CSX was broadly disruptive to the railroad’s operations.

The company has since hired another operations executive to work under Mr. Foote and expanded its senior management team with leaders to help carry out the remaining phase of the turnaround.

The new policy will avoid a shareholder vote on a resolution that had been proposed by an individual CSX investor for the company’s next annual meeting. “This is an important victory for shareholders,” said



Yuki Igarashi
Financial Advisor
Seattle



Hunter Harrison declined the board’s request that he get a physical.

IN DEPTH

SCOTCH

Continued from Page One
tilling the spirit—at least on its tequila-barrel idea—are already on the rocks.

"There is not a single chance of a change of the rules," says Gavin Hewitt, a former British diplomat and one-time chief executive of the SWA. "Whoever is saying that is talking through a complete hole in their head."

The company, which makes Scotch brands such as Johnnie Walker, J&B and Talisker, and controls about 40% of the world's production, triggered an outcry once before in Scotland, which, not surprisingly, takes its Scotch seriously. In 2003, Diageo slapped the name of one of its single-malt Scotches onto a blended Scotch. Diageo called it a "pure malt." The SWA called it deceptive marketing.

A Scottish member of Parliament went so far as to ask then-Prime Minister Tony Blair to intervene in the "ongoing crisis." Mr. Blair said he would "look into it." Diageo eventually pulled the product from shelves.

Diageo didn't set out last year to make trouble. It merely wanted to make Scotch tempt-

ing to more drinkers.

Ten years ago, Scotch made up about 60% of the world's whiskey market, excluding a category called "other whiskies" that consists mainly of domestic Indian whiskey, according to industry tracker IWSR. Last year it made up 49%. The share of U.S. whiskey has grown from 19% to almost 25% over that period.

The mission of the Diageo task force, according to a document labeled "highly confidential" reviewed by The Wall Street Journal, is to explore "whether potential regulatory, technical, legal or other barriers are constraining" Scotch, and "the scope for reform."

Scotch watchers say Diageo will face stiff opposition to any rule changes—something its task force acknowledges in the documents. One of the biggest obstacles is the SWA, an Edinburgh-based trade body that has long interpreted the rules and policed Scotch making.

The SWA "is a big old business that's funded extensively through all the old whisky producers," says Dan Jago, head of London-based Berry Bros. & Rudd, a 320-year-old wine and spirits merchant. "Anyone trying to change the rules would be fighting against the general view that it's better to protect



MIKE WILKINSON/BLOOMBERG NEWS

Scotch than expand it."

Alan Park, the SWA's legal-affairs director, says producers are free to innovate however they like, but "no consumer should be misled into thinking it's Scotch when it's not."

Diageo said in a written statement that it works with the SWA on ideas that "seek to strike a balance between tradition and innovation."

The first written reference to Scotch appeared in 1494, when a Friar John Cor showed up in tax records listing "eight bolts of malt, wherewith to make aqua vitae," the water of life, according to the SWA.

Since its founding in 1912,

the SWA has played a big role shaping what the country's roughly 100 Scotch distillers can and can't do.

The association was instrumental in writing what eventually became the Scotch Whisky Regulations of 2009, a British law that lays out parameters for Scotch production. European Union rules regulating spirits also apply.

Some of the rules are murky, and the association publishes guidelines to interpret them. It also gives advice, and approves or declines requests by distillers to try new approaches. It can't levy fines, but does warns distillers if they are breaking

the law.

One of the most contested topics is finishing, which involves moving aged Scotch from its original cask to a second barrel. U.K. and EU laws don't stipulate what kinds of casks can be used for finishing.

During the past two years, Diageo executives approached the SWA's Mr. Park about using its Don Julio tequila casks to finish some of its Scotch, according to a person familiar with the matter. Mr. Park said no, this person says.

"Scotch whisky has a certain reputation attached to it based on traditional practices," says Mr. Park, who declined to comment on how Diageo plans to take advantage of.

ment on specific conversations with companies. "That provides the framework in which we have to operate."

After being rebuffed, Diageo's task force recommended challenging "the SWA's overreach," according to one Diageo document.

Paul Miller, owner of St. Andrews-based Eden Mill Distillery & Brewery, asked the SWA in 2016 to allow him to use chocolate malt to make his Scotch.

Mr. Park offered to come and taste the drink, but voiced ambivalence: "Certain processes can still be prohibited if they lead to the production of a spirit which differs from a traditional Scotch Whisky," he emailed Mr. Miller.

"That's like saying you can't do anything to the spirit to make it taste any different," says Mr. Miller.

Mr. Park didn't stop by for a tasting, and Mr. Miller scaled back his production of chocolate malt. "Most of these rules were created to stop people passing off cheap rubbish as Scotch Whisky," Mr. Miller says. "They weren't set up to protect Scotch from a really exciting, creative, innovative craft whisky development that Scotland should be perfectly placed to take advantage of."

said they wanted to proceed with the transition.

Over time, Mr. Och became irritated, say some who know him. Each new version of the plan seemed to him to add additional rewards for Mr. Levin at the expense of Mr. Och and former partners he felt were contractually entitled to the payments. And it all came just months after the February deal requiring Mr. Och to hand shares to Mr. Levin.

Mr. Och held Mr. Levin responsible for the various initiatives approved by the board, the people say. "He felt Jimmy forced his hand again," said one.

"I have always run OZ Management in the best interest of the firm, our investors and shareholders, and my partners," Mr. Och said in a written statement.

For his part, Mr. Levin felt caught in the middle of a growing rift between the board and some senior executives, who supported an immediate transition, and Mr. Och, who was pushing back, according to people close to the matter.

In late December, the five independent directors of Och-Ziff's seven-member board presented the plan to move



James Levin, 34, at left, and Daniel Och, 57, clashed over money and control as succession plans at Och-Ziff went off the rails.



OCH-ZIFF CAPITAL (LEFT); DRAHOMÍRA MOSEK/BLOOMBERG NEWS

Downturn

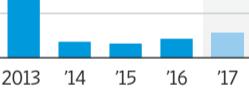
Och-Ziff Capital Management stock hasn't recovered from a steep decline in recent years.

Och-Ziff share price, weekly



*Includes cash and shares that may not have yet vested
Sources: WSJ Market Data Group (stock); company filings (compensation)

Co-CIO Jimmy Levin's compensation*



Estimate
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

bachelor's degree from Harvard University in three years, Mr. Levin became a protégé of both David Windreich, who ran the firm's investments, and Mr. Och. Mr. Levin was even-keeled on the trading floor and struck colleagues as especially driven.

After the crisis ebbed, Mr. Och became bullish about complex "structured credit" debt investments, such as residential mortgage-backed securities, which investors had dumped. Others at the firm were lukewarm on the idea, but Mr. Levin became enthused, making a big bet on the investments with a 14-member team he now was leading.

Och-Ziff is now interviewing outside executives about becoming the firm's CEO, while Mr. Levin is in talks about his own future. "We are engaged in a robust CEO succession process that is progressing well," Mr. Och said in a written statement. "We have a committed team, the firm had an excellent year in 2017, and I am confident we will build on that success in 2018 and beyond."

Some clients say they may follow Mr. Levin out the door if he leaves.

"This was not well communicated or handled," says Michael Rosen, chief investment officer at Angeles Investment Advisors LLC, which invests about \$100 million in a fund overseen by Mr. Levin.

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Mr. Levin what he wanted. Mr. Och also placed Mr. Levin on the firm's management committee, though some at the company worried Mr. Levin had a short track record and didn't deserve more influence.

Aware of Mr. Levin's growing ambition, a colleague urged him to exhibit caution.

"Be patient, you're in a great seat," he told Mr. Levin, referring to his position within the firm.

In 2016, Mr. Levin made fresh financial demands. Tension built with Mr. Och. In February of last year, he acquiesced, giving Mr. Levin a 10-year pay deal unlike any in Och-Ziff's history. In addition to \$4 million a year in cash, Mr. Levin received stock valued at \$280 million at the time, with some of the award conditional on the appreciation of Och-Ziff shares.

As part of the deal, Mr. Och agreed to surrender around \$100 million of his own stock to Mr. Levin, meaning Mr. Levin's raise essentially came out of Mr. Och's pocket.

Mr. Levin also was promoted to co-chief investment officer and tapped as Mr. Och's eventual replacement. The firm moved to drop Mr. Och's

name and start calling itself OZ Capital, a sign it was preparing for a future without its founder.

The size of Mr. Levin's deal caused grumbling among some colleagues, partly because it came as the firm dealt with an embarrassing criminal investigation into one of the firm's senior deal makers, say people at the firm.

Michael Cohen, who once headed Och-Ziff's Europe office, was accused in a 2017 civil complaint by the Securities and Exchange Commission of spearheading a bribery scheme that allegedly funneled millions of dollars in bribes to high-level officials in African countries to secure mining assets and other deals. Mr. Cohen, who left the firm in 2013, also faces criminal charges he defrauded a client in an alleged scheme connected to African investments, according to an indictment filed in Brooklyn federal court in October. A lawyer for Mr. Cohen denied the charges.

Mr. Och wasn't alleged to have been aware of the ac-

tions, but he agreed to personally pay a civil sanction of \$2.2 million to the SEC for a record-keeping violation. The firm paid a fine of \$412 million to settle to settle criminal and civil charges it violated provisions of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. Mr. Och personally pledged what amounted to a \$349 million interest-free loan to the company to cover most of the cost of the settlement.

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Mr. Och responded that he didn't share the concerns about Och-Ziff's balance sheet. The double-digit investment gains of 2017 meant it would have more cash than debt, he argued. At one point, Mr. Och said he would be open to remaining as chief executive past 2018. Board members

forward with the succession this year and unanimously voted to approve it.

"This is where the board wants to go," a board member told Mr. Och.

Mr. Och said he wouldn't accept the plan.

In its letter to clients sent Saturday, Dec. 23, Och-Ziff dropped the bombshell, adding, "Dan and the board of directors hope that Jimmy will remain as Co-Chief Investment Officer."

Och-Ziff's investor-relations team spent the holidays and much of January making emergency calls with public pension funds and other big investors. The team had few answers to questions about the firm's future.

Now, Mr. Och is back running the firm. Both Och-Ziff and Mr. Levin appear to be in tough spots. Because Mr. Levin wasn't fired, he would forgo the shares received last year and his lucrative pay package if he were to quit, according to terms of the deal. He also has a two-year noncompete clause in his contract precluding him from going to a new firm.

If Mr. Levin stays, it isn't clear he will retain the power he had accumulated or be able to mend his relationship with Mr. Och. If a new CEO is recruited, the challenge could become more difficult.

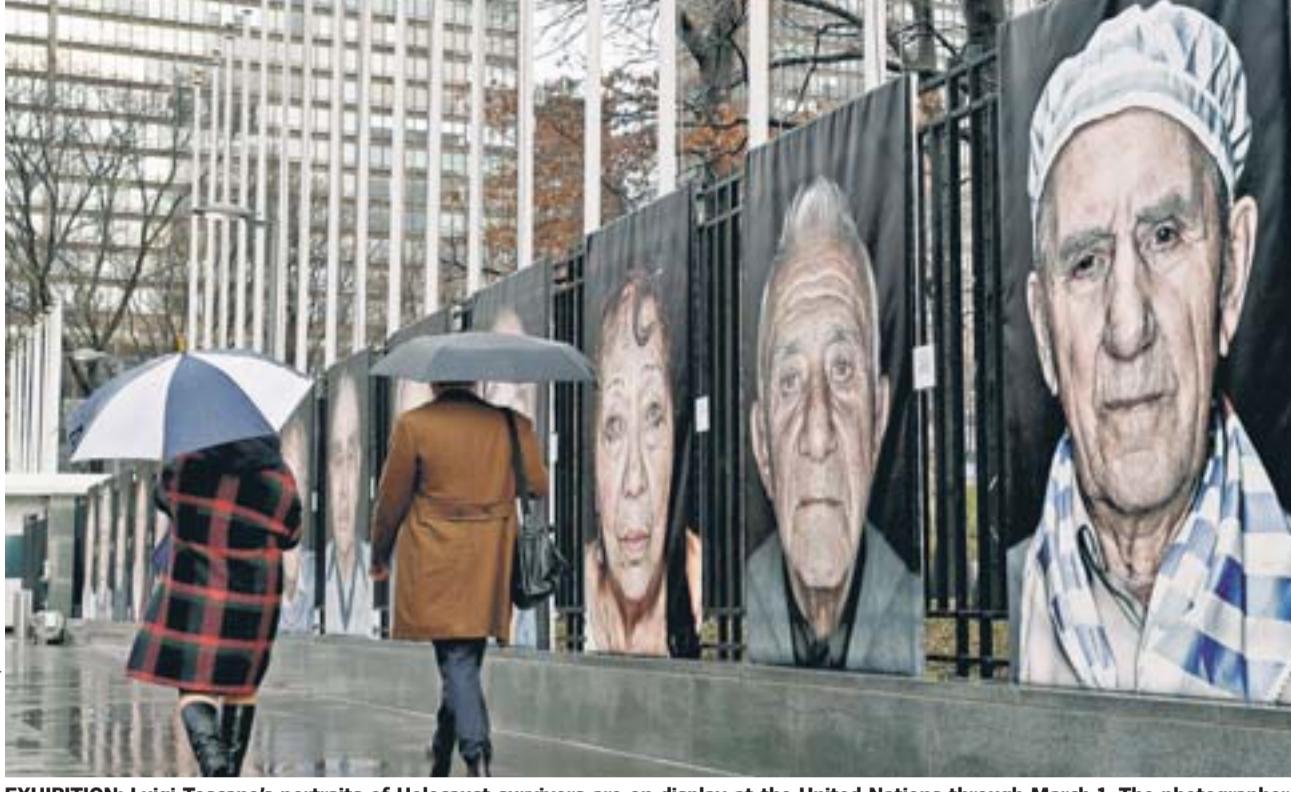
At the same time, Mr. Levin commands the support of some within the firm and the respect of clients.

"He's an exceptionally capable investor," says Mr. Rosen of Angeles Investment Advisors. He says his firm likely will pull its money if Mr. Levin leaves. "That would be problematic," he says.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

GREATER NEW YORK

Every Picture Tells a Story



EXHIBITION: Luigi Toscano's portraits of Holocaust survivors are on display at the United Nations through March 1. The photographer spent a year meeting survivors in Germany, the U.S., Ukraine, Israel and Russia, to give them the opportunity to share their life stories.

City Files Opioid Lawsuit

BY CORINNE RAMEY
AND SARA RANDAZZO

New York City has filed a lawsuit against opioid manufacturers and distributors, accusing the companies of over-supplying the market and misrepresenting the safety of the drugs, Mayor Bill de Blasio said Tuesday.

The lawsuit, filed in New York State Supreme Court, seeks half a billion dollars that city officials say they need to fight the opioid epidemic.

"More New Yorkers have died from opioid overdoses than car crashes and homicides combined in recent years," Mr. de Blasio, a Democrat, said in a statement. "Big Pharma helped to fuel this epidemic by deceptively peddling these dangerous drugs and hooking millions of Americans in exchange for profit."

Five opioid manufacturers and their subsidiaries, including Purdue Pharma, Johnson & Johnson and Endo International,

as well as distributors McKesson Corp., Cardinal Health Inc. and AmerisourceBergen Corp., were named in the suit.

New York City's move follows a wave of similar lawsuits brought by 15 states and about 300 other cities and counties in the U.S. The companies have denied the allegations.

42K

Approximate number of people opioids killed in 2016 in the U.S.

the request of the Food and Drug Administration.

McKesson said it reports hundreds of thousands of suspicious orders to federal authorities each year and that "this complicated, multifaceted public-health crisis cannot be solved by any one participant," but needs to come from a comprehensive approach involving everyone from doctors to insurance companies to distributors and manufacturers.

More than 1,000 people in New York City died in a drug overdose which involved an opioid during 2016, city officials said. Costs to the city have included those related to treatment, hospitals, criminal justice and law enforcement, officials said.

Opioids killed more than 42,000 people in the U.S. in 2016, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Forty percent of opioid overdoses in 2016 involved a prescription opioid, the CDC said.

Earlier this week, Kentucky filed a lawsuit against McKesson, claiming the distributor flooded the state with opioids. Kentucky Attorney General Andy Beshear, a Democrat, also sued Endo last year.

Delaware sued manufacturers, distributors and pharmacies in state court there on Friday, saying the volume of opioids shipped to Delaware annually amounts to more than 50 opioid pills for each resident.

Hundreds of the suits filed in federal court have been consolidated in front of U.S. District Judge Dan Polster in Ohio. Judge Polster is pushing for early settlement talks and has encouraged state attorneys general that have filed suits to attend a meeting in his court this month.

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine, a Republican who filed one of the first major opioid cases this past summer, has said he has begun settlement talks with some opioid manufacturers.

Prosecutors: Ex-Cuomo Aide Driven by Greed

BY ERICA ORDEN

Former gubernatorial aide Joseph Percoco spent decades developing unparalleled influence with New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, and on Tuesday federal prosecutors sought to transform that relationship, once considered an asset, into a criminal liability.

"For a state employee, getting a call from Percoco was like getting a call from the governor himself," Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Boone said in his opening statement in Manhattan federal court.

Describing Mr. Percoco, who left Albany in 2016, as "one of the most powerful men in New York state government," Mr. Boone told the jury: "Wherever the governor went, Percoco went."

Mr. Boone's portrait of Mr. Percoco as an official who manipulated the levers of New York state government was designed to bolster federal prosecutors' charges that Mr. Percoco used his position to perform favors for private companies in exchange for payments and other perks. "This case is about corruption," Mr. Boone said, "the old-fashioned kind."

The trial is the latest in a series of criminal cases to emerge from Albany, which former Manhattan U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara once described as a "cauldron of corruption."

In response to a request for comment on the opening statements, a spokesman for Mr. Cuomo told a reporter to "knock it off." The governor hasn't been accused of wrongdoing.

The case, in which Mr. Percoco is charged with bribery, conspiracy to commit extortion, extortion and conspiracy to commit fraud, centers on at least \$315,000 in payments and other alleged bribes he and his wife received from two companies in exchange for pushing for state approvals and other action that would benefit the firms.

Executives from those companies—Competitive Power Ventures Holdings LLC, an energy company; and COR Development Co. LLC, a Syracuse-based developer—are standing trial along with Mr. Percoco.

Crucial to the government's case against the men is a cooperating witness who on Tuesday became the primary tool of Mr. Percoco's defense. In his opening statement, Mr. Percoco's attorney, Barry Bohrer, told the jurors that the witness, Todd Howe, a lobbyist, would implicate Mr. Percoco and the other defendants to barter himself a lesser sentence.

"This is a man who is a walking breach-of-contract," Mr. Bohrer said of Mr. Howe, tossing off quips such as "Howe's house of lies."

Todd Ransom Howe has kidnapped the truth in this

case, and he's holding these gentlemen hostage," Mr. Bohrer said, referring to the defendants.

Prosecutors contend that Mr. Howe, also a Cuomo associate, facilitated the alleged bribery schemes between Mr. Percoco and the other defendants. Mr. Howe pleaded guilty in September 2016 to eight counts including extortion, conspiracy, wire fraud and tax evasion. An attorney for Mr. Howe declined to comment on Mr. Bohrer's remarks.

In particular Mr. Boone focused on the alleged scheme that resulted in what prosecutors contend are the biggest bribes for Mr. Percoco, a deal in which they say the energy company created an especially undemanding job for his wife that paid her nearly \$300,000 over three years, in exchange for his help on two state matters.



Joseph Percoco is accused of swapping political favors for cash and perks.

Mr. Percoco's wife, Lisa Percoco, wasn't charged.

Mr. Boone described a dire financial situation for Mr. Percoco and his wife that Mr. Boone said prompted Mr. Percoco's efforts to pad his \$169,000 state salary with payments from private companies.

"When he decided he wanted to make more money, he decided to sell the most powerful thing he owned: His job, his power and influence," Mr. Boone said.

Mr. Bohrer had told jurors that when Mr. Percoco left state service to work as Mr. Cuomo's campaign manager in the summer of 2014, Mr. Percoco didn't expect to return to government, thus preventing him from being able to peddle any promise of official action. But the prosecution presented contradictory evidence.

In a mortgage filing for his South Salem home dated August 2014, Mr. Percoco wrote: "I am guaranteed a position with Governor Andrew Cuomo post-election..." Mr. Percoco returned for his final stint of service in November 2014.

Death Penalty Hangs Over Trial

BY CORINNE RAMEY

A federal judge declined to set a trial date for the man facing terrorism and murder charges for driving a truck down a Manhattan bike path, saying the possibility that government lawyers would seek the death penalty complicated the case.

"You're not going to get a trial date today, is the short answer," U.S. District Judge Vernon Broderick said Tuesday in federal court in Manhattan.

Federal prosecutors say the government is deciding whether to seek the death penalty for Sayfullo Saipov, who is accused of driving a rental truck down

the bike path along the West Side highway, killing eight people and wounding at least 12 others on Oct. 31. Mr. Saipov, who has pleaded not guilty, told investigators that Islamic State videos he watched on his cell phone inspired him to carry out the attack, prosecutors say.

Mr. Saipov has offered to plead guilty if federal prosecutors don't ask for the death penalty, court filings indicate. If Mr. Saipov were to plead guilty, then victims' families wouldn't need to prepare for and participate in a trial, defense lawyers wrote. It also would avoid seating what they called a "death-qualified jury," or jurors who

say their personal views on the death penalty wouldn't impede their ability to follow the judge's instructions.

In court filings, government lawyers note the ultimate decision on whether to ask for the death penalty rests with the U.S. attorney general.

In court Tuesday, Mr. Saipov's lawyers argued they would need sufficient time to prepare a capital case. The average time between indictment and trial in federal capital cases is 36½ months, said David Patton, one of Mr. Saipov's lawyers.

Prosecutors said an April 2019 trial date would be appropriate.

Capital Punishment

Death sentences in the U.S.



Source: Death Penalty Information Center

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GREATER NEW YORK

METRO MONEY | By Anne Kadet

Tech Startups Take a Bite out Of Food Waste

Forget Bitcoin or shares of Amazon.com. My current market obsession is the wild swings in the price of the pu pu platter for two at Lichee Nut, the Chinese restaurant in my Brooklyn neighborhood.

While diners who order at the restaurant pay \$16.50 for the dish, folks using Gebni, an app offering dynamic, demand-based pricing on deliveries from several hundred restaurants around New York City see different rates throughout the day.

On a Sunday afternoon, the platter price sank to \$12.44 before climbing to \$13.21 using the Gebni app. The next day, the price started at \$14.86, dropped to \$12.43 by mid-afternoon and shot up to \$15.01 in time for dinner.

Gebni is one of several local startups trying to solve a continuing logistical dilemma: There is likely enough prepared food to affordably feed everyone in New York City, but a lot winds up in the dumpster.

"The food waste problem is a big issue," says Mohamed Merzouk, the co-founder and CEO of Gebni.

Gebni's discounts, which depend on both overall order demand and demand for specific dishes, range up to 35%. But

customers never pay more than a restaurant's standard menu price. "We do the reverse of surge pricing," he says.

I got an even bigger discount through goMkt, an app-based ordering platform modeled after flash-fashion sales. Only instead of **Burberry** and Balenciaga, it is bagels and burritos.

The dozen Manhattan restaurants participating in goMkt's pilot launch offer perishable foods at deep discounts, often to clear inventory at day's end. Butter Lane in the East Village has been offering half-price cupcakes in the evening. Bravo Pizza near Union Square sells whole pies for \$12.50—if you're willing to fetch one at 3 a.m.

"It's items that typically go to waste," says goMkt founder Matthew Holtzman.

I used goMkt to order and pay for two servings of chicken korma at Chandni, a halal steam-table joint on West 29th Street in Manhattan. Upon arrival, I couldn't find the needed QR code on my app for scanning, and neither could anyone at the restaurant. But my order was in the system, and I soon had two half-priced entrees wrapped and ready to go. Mr. Holtzman says the glitch has been fixed.

Chandni owner Mohammad Ashraf says he sees goMkt as an opportunity to attract new



JAMES O'BRIEN

customers. Indeed, he has had New York University students making the 20-block trek uptown for cheap curry.

Both these startups employ a unique strategy and fill a need, says Jennifer Goggin, a food-tech startup adviser and director of retail at Crave Food Systems. But they also face a typical startup conundrum. Busy restaurants hate to invest effort in a new platform unless there already is a big user base in place. Consumers, meanwhile, won't bother with

an app that lacks a decent variety of appealing offers.

"It's a chicken and egg situation," Ms. Goggin says.

A third outfit addressing food waste is focusing on a less obvious source: catered events. For a \$30 fee, Transfarnation, a not-for-profit startup, has its network of independent contractors—often Uber and Lyft drivers who are already on the streets—pick up leftover food for delivery to the nearest shelter.

Donors who use Transf-

nation's app to arrange an instant pickup can take a tax write off, says co-founder Hannah Dehradunwala. The contractors earn \$15 per pickup, and the shelters get free food.

"It took us a while to find a model that works, but now it benefits everyone involved," Ms. Dehradunwala says.

Transfarnation makes up to 20 pickups a day from offices, film sets and receptions around the city, typically totaling 3,500 to 5,000 pounds of food a week. It's mostly your

standard tuna wraps, doughnuts and pasta, but they have delivered everything from steaks and wedding cake to a load of 40 lobsters.

There's plenty of room for growth, says Ms. Dehradunwala, who estimates 30,000 to 35,000 pounds of prepared food hits the city's trash stream each day. "We have enough food. Really great food. The only issue is to get it to where it can be used quickly."

anne.kadet@wsj.com

GREATER NEW YORK WATCH

NEW YORK

State Considers Own Net-Neutrality Law

New York state could adopt its own version of net neutrality under legislation state lawmakers announced Tuesday.

The bill would require internet providers doing business with New York or its municipalities to certify that they don't interfere with web traffic or speed to favor certain sites or customers. Companies that don't abide by net neutrality when it comes to consumers wouldn't be eligible

for contracts. "This is about keeping a free and open internet," said Assemblywoman Patricia Fahy, an Albany Democrat.

Several states are looking at creating net-neutrality rules after the Federal Communications Commission repealed the policy.

—Associated Press

NEW JERSEY

Medical-Pot Program To Undergo Review

Gov. Phil Murphy on Tuesday called for making it easier for New Jersey residents to use its medical-marijuana program,

which he said has been "stifled" during the past eight years, and ordered a review aimed at removing regulations.

The Democrat faulted the administration of Republican former Gov. Chris Christie for making it difficult for residents to use the state's program, which

has 15,000 enrollees. Other similar-sized states have hundreds of thousands of patients in their programs. The order comes after Mr. Murphy also promised to legalize marijuana for recreational use in New Jersey. A bill is pending in the Legislature.

—Associated Press



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Parents Want Role in Process

BY LESLIE BRODY

Elected parent leaders in New York City demanded Tuesday that Mayor Bill de Blasio give them a role in the selection of a new chancellor to run the nation's largest school system.

When the mayor announced in December that Chancellor Carmen Farina would retire in coming months, he said a national search already was under way. He said he would keep the process "close to the vest" to respect the privacy of candidates with jobs.

About two dozen elected parent representatives sport-

ing buttons declaring "Parent Voice" rallied outside the city Department of Education in lower Manhattan on Tuesday to urge the mayor to heed his campaign pledges of inclusive, transparent governance and family engagement.

They showed letters they sent Mr. de Blasio asking to meet with City Hall staff about their desire for input. Some want a group of seven parents representing special-education students, English-language learners and each borough to join the selection process.

A spokeswoman for the mayor said by email that "while parent and community input is an important part of our chancellor search, the decision is ultimately the Mayor's, who is a proud parent of former New York City public school students."

The morning rally included leaders of the Chancellor's Parent Advisory Council, which represents parent associations citywide, and leaders of the elected Community Education Councils. The demonstrators noted that other cities include parents in the vetting process, and doing so would result in the city hiring

a chancellor with a broader mandate to run a district serving 1.1 million students.

"Our children are the ones in schools," said Angela Garces, a member of the Community Education Council for District 6 in northern Manhattan. "We're looking to have input, we're not looking to take over."

1.1M

Number of students enrolled in New York City public schools.

The parents said they wanted a chancellor with experience in teaching and administration in a large, diverse district, with a record of collaborating with parent leaders, and a commitment to tackling segregation, among other issues.

Ms. Farina, 74 years old, has said it was time to step down from the all-consuming position after four years as chancellor and a half-century of working in city schools.

Connecticut Unveils Commemorative License Plate



SUSAN HAIGH/ASSOCIATED PRESS

WHALE OF A TIME: Former Hartford Whalers hockey player Bob Crawford, right, and Pucky, the team mascot, attended an event Tuesday to display a license plate bearing the former NHL team's logo.

LIFE & ARTS



OSCARs

For 'Water,' a Flood of Nominations

Jordan Peele of 'Get Out' and Greta Gerwig of 'Lady Bird,' both first-time filmmakers, are contenders in directing

BY ELLEN GAMERMAN

"THE SHAPE OF WATER," a lyrical love story about a mute woman and an amphibious creature, emerged as the early front-runner in the Oscar race, racking up 13 nominations as the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced its list of contenders Tuesday morning.

Right behind it, Christopher Nolan's "Dunkirk," with eight nominations, and "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri," with seven, including three acting nods.

Echoes of the #metoo movement, which has prompted discussion about the barriers women face in Hollywood, could be heard in the announcement, with the Academy making history in at least one category. Until this year, no woman had been nominated for cinematography, a barrier Rachel Morrison broke with her nod for "Mudbound."

The director nomination of Greta Gerwig for "Lady Bird," the coming-of-age tale that marked her filmmaking debut, breaks a seven-year drought for women in that category. Earlier this month, actress Natalie Portman put a spotlight on the issue at the Golden Globes, announcing the names of the "all male nominees" for best director. The camera then cut to male directors sporting a series of sheepish expressions.

The man who won the category that evening, "The Shape of Water" director Guillermo del Toro, was also named an Oscar nominee on Tuesday.

"At age 53, I feel very happy that for the last five years we were all risking all as if we were 17," he said. The filmmaker said he was glad Ms. Gerwig was recognized in the directing category and added of that awkward Golden Globe moment: "I actually loved it. The part I enjoy most of these ceremonies is when people go off-script and say exactly what they're thinking—and this is the season to say exactly what you're thinking."

Notably absent from the list of nominees: James Franco, the star and director of "The Disaster Artist" who found himself on the defensive earlier this month after women on social media accused him of sexual misconduct in the wake of his Golden Globe win for best actor in a motion picture musical or comedy. "The Disaster Artist" scored one Oscar nomination, for adapted screenplay.

The Weinstein Co. didn't receive any nominations this year. Its 2017 films, includ-



Top left, Richard Jenkins, Guillermo del Toro and Sally Hawkins, all three of them Oscar nominees for 'The Shape of Water'; top right, Mary J. Blige in 'Mudbound'; above, a scene from 'Dunkirk'; 'Lady Bird' director Greta Gerwig; below, nominations announcers Andy Serkis and Tiffany Haddish.

ing "Tulip Fever" and "Wind River," never exploded at the box office. While at Miramax and the Weinstein Co., Harvey and Bob Weinstein had received more than 340 Oscar nominations and won more than 80 Academy Awards.

Last year, dozens of women accused Harvey Weinstein of sexual misconduct over episodes spanning several decades. Mr. Weinstein, fired by the company's board, has apologized for his behavior with colleagues and denied claims of nonconsensual sex. After the scandal, women across the country have reported their own experiences with sexual harassment.

In other nominations, best-actor contenders include Gary Oldman, for his portrayal of Winston Churchill in "Darkest Hour." Also nominated: Timothée Chalamet, lauded for his turn as a teenager in an erotic awakening in "Call Me By Your Name," and "Phantom Thread" lead Daniel Day-Lewis, playing a 1950s London high-fashion designer in what he called his final film role.

Another standout: Daniel Kaluuya, star of "Get Out," the horror film about racism that also netted a best-picture nod and Oscar nominations for writer-director Jordan

Peele. Like Ms. Gerwig, this is Mr. Peele's debut as a feature-film director.

The dominance of Hollywood newcomers this year is unusual. The last time two first-time filmmakers were nominated for directing Oscars was in 2000, when Spike Jonze and Sam Mendes were in contention for

"Being John Malkovich" and "American Beauty," respectively. Mr.

Mendes took home the Oscar that year.

The list includes some surprises. "Logan," widely praised by critics as deeper and more character-focused than other comic-book adaptations, became the first superhero film to earn a screen-play nomination. And despite the small \$6 million box office take for "Phantom

Thread," the movie received six nominations, including best picture and a directing nod for Paul Thomas Anderson.

Frances McDormand solidified her lead in the Oscar race for best actress, earning a nomination for her portrayal of a grief-stricken mother battling the local police over the unsolved rape and murder of her teenage daughter in "Three Billboards." She has already won a Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild Award for the performance.

Saoirse Ronan also received a nod for her

turn as the quirky heroine of "Lady Bird," as did Sally Hawkins for her performance in "The Shape of Water." Meryl Streep's best-actress nomination for her portrayal of Katharine Graham in "The Post" gives her a record 17 nominations in that category.

"Three Billboards" also nabbed best-supporting actor nominations for Sam Rockwell and Woody Harrelson. The supporting actress race continues to look like a showdown between Allison Janney in "I, Tonya" and Laurie Metcalf in "Lady Bird," both nominated on Tuesday in addition to Mary J. Blige ("Mudbound"), Lesley Manville ("Phantom Thread") and Octavia Spencer ("The Shape of Water"), who won in this category in 2012 for "The Help."

"I can't stop crying, and these are happy tears," Ms. Blige, 47, said in an interview after the announcement. The singer-songwriter added that she has never attended an Oscars ceremony, but always wished she were there as she watched the show on TV. In addition to her supporting-actress nomination, her song "Mighty River" scored a nod for original song.

"I'm just really overjoyed and humbled all at the same time, because it didn't have to be this way," she said. "It's a beautiful thing to be amongst all those beautiful people on that beautiful night."

The Oscars will air live on ABC on March 4, with late-night comedian Jimmy Kimmel returning as host.

FROM TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT: KERRY HAYES/FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES; STEVE DIETL/NETFLIX; MELINDA SUE GORDON/WARNER BROS. PICTURES; MERIE WALLACE/A24; RICHARD HARBAUGH/AMPAS. BELOW: F. MARTIN RAMIN/THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WORK & FAMILY | By Sue Shellenbarger

THE RISE OF THE ODDBALL BUSINESS CARD

GETTING A BUSINESS CARD from Randall Ostrow can be a puzzling experience. To make an impression, he hands out wooden cards in jigsaw shapes.

"My card is like a Rubik's Cube sitting on someone's desk," says Mr. Ostrow, owner of a Boca Raton, Fla., business-development advisory firm bearing his name. Recipients tend to keep it for a while, and "when they're on the phone they're playing with the puzzle piece, and my name is always in front of their face."

Many people see the traditional black-and-white business card as a relic. Few employers issue them to all employees anymore. But ambitious networkers, entrepreneurs, salespeople, marketers and others still need them.

Enter the DIY business card, where odd designs and materials rule. Some people embrace edgy shapes and colors or make cards of

metal, plastic or wood. Others carry outside square cards or tiny ones barely larger than a stick of gum. While oddball cards may make a strong impression, they also risk annoying recipients if they can't be scanned easily or won't fit into a wallet or purse.

Greta Schulz aims to startle people when she hands them her card, which is shaped like a trapezoid with a slanted bottom edge. "People go, 'Omigod,' and it starts a conversation," says Ms. Schulz, a West Palm Beach, Fla.,

sales trainer and consultant. "You want to make a statement, to make sure people remember you." When recipients complain that

her card won't fit in their wallet or card holder, Ms. Schulz says "you're absolutely right"—and leaves it at that. After a pause, she says, "They say, 'Oh, you want it to stick out!'"

Mel Carson's business cards, from Moo Inc., an online print and design company, are three times thicker than traditional cards, with seams of red running through

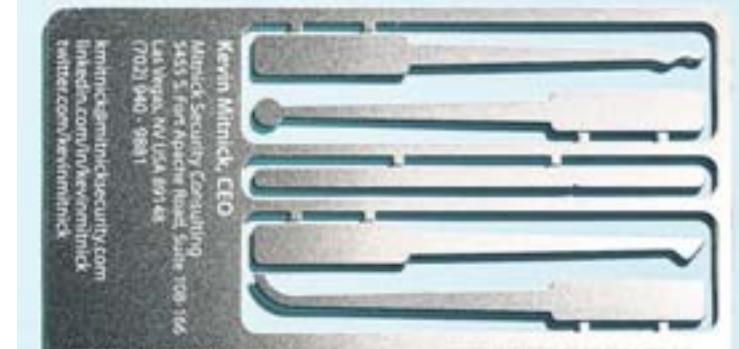
the paper stock. When he handed one to his wife Ashley, she assumed it was several cards stuck together and tried to pull it apart.

Mr. Carson, founder of Delightful Communications, a Seattle personal-branding and digital-marketing company, told her that would be a plus if she were a potential business contact: "You've just spent 200% more time feeling the card and admiring its quality" than she would have with a traditional card.

Some cards need a safety warning. Famed hacker Kevin Mitnick hands out a lightweight metal business card that holds a removable set of flat lock-picking tools. Mr. Mitnick, who made headlines in the 1990s by breaking into tech companies' computer systems, is a public speaker and chief hacking officer at KnowBe4, a Clearwater, Fla., security-training firm. He gives away about 14,000 of the lock-pick cards each year.

One recipient cut his finger using the picks. "You have to be

Please see CARDS page A15



Kevin Mitnick, who runs a security-training firm, carries a metal business card with a set of removable lock-picking tools.

LIFE & ARTS

MY RIDE | By A.J. Baime

A Mercedes With Roots in Three Continents

Matías Bombal, 50, a movie critic and documentary filmmaker from Sacramento, Calif., on his 1959 Mercedes-Benz 220 S, as told to A.J. Baime.

In 1959, my father was studying romanticism in literature in Germany. He wanted to buy a car and decided that if he got together all his money, he could buy one that would last him forever. He chose a Mercedes-Benz and drove it all over Europe. The quality of the car felt very German to him, and he was enchanted by it.

The car crossed the Atlantic aboard an Italian ocean liner to his home country of Chile in 1960. Then in 1969, he took it to California, where he became a professor at the University of California, Berkeley.

For my entire life, this has been our family car. I grew up in it. I went on my first date in it, to "The Nutcracker."

When my father passed in 2009, I inherited the car. And while he was rather private about it, I have chosen to give it a more public life.

Due to my profession, I have, on occasion, the chance to squire famous people from show business around. The car has been used in a couple independent films.

I named it "Eva," due to the first digits in its California license plate—the original plate it got in 1969 when my father came to this country—and I created a Facebook page called "Mercedes Eva Bombal." As of now, exactly 611 follow the car's adventures.

There are photos on the Facebook page that cover the whole life of the vehicle, and you can see pictures of me at 4 years old, sticking my head through the sliding steel sunroof—which was an interesting add-on my father originally ordered, very rare for this model.

The car has no computer components. Everything in that 2.2-liter, six-cylinder engine can be disassembled and repaired, and to Mercedes-Benz's credit, the company still makes parts for 60-year-old cars. This one can do 110 mph, but I do not push it for obvious reasons.

The most wonderful, intangible element is the smell of the interior. It has its original tan leather, wooden dashboard and ivory steering wheel. It smells exactly as it did when I was 2 years old.

People ask me if it is a period piece, since so much of my life is about classic cinema. To me, it is the opposite of a period piece. It is timeless.

—Contact A.J. Baime at Facebook.com/ajbaime



Matías Bombal, a movie critic and documentary filmmaker, leans on his 1959 Mercedes-Benz 220 S outside the Tower Theatre in Sacramento, Calif.



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DOW JONES

LIFE & ARTS



'Octopus' is the new album from jazz pianists Craig Taborn and Kris Davis.

MUSIC REVIEW

DIVING FOR DEEP LISTENING

BY MARTIN JOHNSON

PIANO DUET RECORDINGS are rare in jazz compared with trios or solos, yet they offer huge rewards. A duet of artists with contrasting styles—say, Chick Corea and Herbie Hancock or Cecil Taylor and Mary Lou Williams—enables listeners to find surprising common ground between the performers and appreciate the idiosyncrasies more. Duets pairing pianists with similar approaches—as on the albums featuring Hank Jones and Tommy Flanagan or the one with Muhal Richard Abrams and Amina Claudine Myers—offer insights into the roots of their technique and often take listeners into unexpected sonic territory. The latter is the case with “Octopus” (*Pyroclastic*, out Friday), a splendid document of live recordings featuring pianists Kris Davis and Craig Taborn.

With their lean, restrained and abstract music, both Ms. Davis and Mr. Taborn often remind me of the painter Paul Klee in their embrace of the modern trends that recently preceded them. In addition, their style is bright but not sunny, like the flavor of a Sancerre. “Octopus” consists of two compositions by Ms. Davis, three by Mr. Taborn, and two covers—the Carla Bley jazz standard “Sing Me Softly of the Blues” and Sun Ra’s “Love in Outer Space.” The recording opens with Mr. Taborn’s “Interruptions One,” a spare, lyrical piece in which both pianists skillfully interact with silences as capably as they do with each other. The proceedings heat up a little on Ms. Davis’s “Ossining,” which is named for the town in the Hudson Valley, a region where she and many other musicians now live. The pace quickens and each pianist layers cluster over cluster, with Ms. Davis playing prepared piano in parts to exhilarating effect. Their reserve gives Ms. Bley’s composition a wistful air; they find a soulful edge with the music of Sun Ra.

“Octopus” is compiled from concerts in Ann Arbor, Mich.; Columbus, Ohio; and San Diego, when the duo toured following the Ms. Davis’s 2016 album, “Duopoly” (*Pyroclastic*), which featured duets



with Mr. Taborn and such other jazz luminaries as guitarist Bill Frisell, clarinetist Don Byron and saxophonist Tim Berne. One stop on the tour, at the Kennedy Center in Washington, can be found on YouTube, and the variance is instructive. There are elements of the compositions found on *Octopus*, but many are taken in substantially different directions. Both pianists are restless improvisers with enormous arsenals of ideas.

Mr. Taborn, who is 47 years old, has had notable sideman gigs with saxophonists Roscoe Mitchell and Chris Potter as well as bassist Chris Lightcap, but his recent work as a leader on three recordings for ECM has solidified his reputation as one of the leading pianists in jazz. Ms. Davis, who is 38, has been a standout in bands led by bassist Michael Formanek, drummer Terri Lyne Carrington, saxophonist Ingrid Laubrock and others; she leads the acclaimed quintet Capricorn Rising and several other bands. She will perform nightly in various configurations at The Stone in New York from Jan. 23-28.

Ms. Davis and Mr. Taborn, as well as many of their contemporaries, are elevating jazz beyond the limiting continuum of accessibility and abstraction. Long rhythmically intense stretches of “*Octopus*” are easy to grasp, yet so too are the austere sections. It’s music that is defining its own terms rather than shoehorning itself into categories like tradition and avant garde. The audience gets it; the enthusiastic ovations that punctuate the recording border on ecstatic.

Mr. Johnson writes about jazz for the Journal.

CULTURAL COMMENTARY | By Jim Fusilli

The Grammys’ Boys’ Club

Women are underrepresented in this year’s Grammy nominees

IN THEORY, the Grammys, which will be presented Sunday, reflect what’s happened in the past year in contemporary music. Two trends that emerged during the eligibility period were the ascendancy of hip-hop and R&B to the status of the most popular form of current music, surpassing rock when measured by sales and streams, and what seemed to be the gathering force of women in rock, pop and jazz. Do this year’s nominees recognize those trends?

Hip-hop and R&B dominate the Album of the Year and Record of the Year categories, with recordings by Childish Gambino, Jay-Z, Kendrick Lamar and Bruno Mars up for the award in both. (Lorde’s pop “Melodrama” is the fifth nominee in the album grouping, while Luis Fonsi and Daddy Yankee’s reggaeton-influenced “Despacito” is the remaining nominee in the record class.) There are no rock records or artists up for Song of the Year, which celebrates composers, or Best New Artist either.

As for the other trend: Women are underrepresented throughout the list of potential Grammy winners. Along with Khalid and Lil Uzi Vert, the Best New Artist nominees are Alessia Cara, Julia Michaels and SZA, thus making it the only majority-female grouping in the so-called big four categories. The featured nominees in Best Americana Album and Best Traditional Blues Album classes are all male. In the Dance/Electronic grouping, no women are nominated either, which may not be a surprise given the relative paucity of female DJs and producers among the genre’s most highly touted creative spinners. No groups led by women are among the nominees in the Best Contemporary Instrumental, Best Jazz Instrumental, Best Large Jazz Ensemble and Best Contemporary Christian Music album categories. There is no Grammy category comprised entirely of women.

Perhaps one reason rock appears to be lagging in its commercial appeal is how poorly it’s presented by the Recording Academy. The four rock categories are a logic-defying mess. For example, the exquisite composer Leonard Cohen, who died in November 2016, is nominated for Best Rock Performance for his song “You Want It Darker,” the overwrought title track of his fine final album. However, no Cohen composition is up for Best Rock Song, unlike raging mediocrities performed by Avenged Sevenfold, Foo Fighters, K.Flay, Metallica and Nothing More. Best Rock Performance and Best Metal Performance are separate categories, but the Best Rock Album nominees include metal’s Mastodon and Metallica, metal-influenced Nothing More and Queens of the Stone Age, and a straight-ahead rock disc by the War on Drugs. (Not one of those bands currently counts a woman as a member.) Though absent groups led by women, the nominees for Best Alternative Music Album provide a better representation of what’s happening on the rock side of pop: “Everything Now” by Arcade Fire, “Humanz” by Gorillaz, “American Dream” by LCD Soundsystem, “Pure Comedy” by



Childish Gambino, above, is nominated for Record of the Year and other awards; Aimee Mann, top, is nominated for Best Folk Album for her ‘Mental Illness.’

Father John Misty and “Sleep Well Beast” by the National.

This year, as in many past, some of the most notable recordings are nominated in some of the least celebrated categories. Way down the list in Category 51 is the Best Folk Album grouping, which features the superior recordings “Mental Illness” by Aimee Mann; “Semper Femina” by Laura Marling; “The Queen of Hearts” by Offa Rex, an often-rousing collaboration between Olivia Chaney and the Decemberists; “You Don’t Own Me Anymore” by the Secret Sisters; and “The Laughing Apple” by Yusuf aka Cat Stevens.

Despite its gender bias, the Best Dance/Electronic Album grouping comprises recordings that mostly avoid EDM’s fervor for formula; the nominees are “Migration” by Bonobo, the self-titled full-length debut by Mura Masa, “A Moment Apart” by Odesza, “What Now” by Sylvan Esso and the outlier, “3-D The Catalogue” by Kraftwerk, which is a collection of 69 live tracks culled from concerts performed between 2012 and 2016.

The Grammys give scant attention to indigenous musicians who reflect their culture. The five nomi-

nees for Best Regional Roots Music Album—a crazy quilt of a category—include one disc each of Cajun, Hawaiian, Native American and zydeco music along with Josh Tatofi’s stirring “Pua Kiele,” which might be called Polynesian soul. Similarly, the Best World Music Album category omits artists from most of the globe: This year, the nominated artists include two from Spain, one each from South Africa and Mali, and the collaboration between Anat Cohen, a New York-based clarinet and saxophone player, and the Brazilian group Trio Brasileiro.

It’s long past the time when the Grammy nominees could be considered a compendium of the best in contemporary music, even if the Academy acknowledges some exemplary records. Nevertheless, for its annual and much-ballyhooed celebration that’s built in large part on mirroring industry trends, the Academy has to do more to recognize the impact and artistry of women in rock and pop.

Mr. Fusilli is the Journal’s rock and pop music critic. Email him at jfusilli@wsj.com and follow him on Twitter @wsjrock.

CARDS

Continued from page A13
careful not to push too hard,” Mr. Mitnick says.

Some users question the usefulness of kooky cards. Executive recruiter Carolyn Thompson, who collects 1,000 cards a year, is annoyed by tiny cards that fall out of the stacks she makes at conferences. And black cards with indistinct lettering, or those with contact information on both sides, can’t be scanned. “You have to manually enter the information. God forbid,” says Ms. Thompson, managing principal of Merito Group in Vienna, Va.

Alexandra Morris keeps a stack of square, gold-embossed business cards on her desk. She purchases them for her luxury catering business, Tastings, in New York. “I like the tactile experience, for the same reason I like reading a book or a newspaper.”

Another photographer, Ron Wood, says he’s willing to pay nearly \$2 a pop for his metal business cards because people never throw them away. Recipients often say, “This is your card? Are you giving this to me? Are you sure?” says Mr. Wood, of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

“You don’t walk down the street throwing them to just anybody,” says Craig Martyn, founder and



her four sets of reading glasses. The card color choices are a conversation starter, says Ms. Breen, executive vice president of Paramore Digital, a Nashville, Tenn., creative agency. “Men choose pink a lot. They say, ‘I’m man enough to wear pink.’”

Most people exchange contact information via LinkedIn, email, text or airdrops between phones, or by using one of several apps that scan and store business-card contacts. Some novel cards aiming to bridge the digital and analog worlds, such as those bearing QR codes, are already passe.

Traditional business cards remain essential in other cultures. “Having cute cards in cutout shapes doesn’t translate well” in Japan and other Asian nations, where cards are expected to be formal in style and received respectfully, with two hands, says Michael Schell, the New York-based chief executive of RW3 CultureWizard, an intercultural training company.

In the U.S., traditional cards with simple block lettering are still de rigueur in such fields as law or finance, says Jill Tipograph, co-founder of Early Stage Careers, a New York City coaching service. She advises her young clients to carry business cards “as a point of distinction” during a job search, and to choose a style similar to the business cards or websites of companies where they’d like to work.

owner of My Metal Business Card, the Fullerton, Calif., company that makes Mr. Wood’s cards. One hun-

dred of the cards weigh 4 pounds: If you carry too many, “it would make your pants sag,” he says.

Hannah Paramore Breen offers contacts business cards in four colors that match the frames on

SPORTS

BASEBALL

How the Hall of Fame Vote Is Expected to Go

BY JARED DIAMOND

THE BASEBALL Writers' Association of America will unveil the results of its annual Hall of Fame election on Wednesday to little surprise. Since more than half of voters have made their ballots public, we can already more or less deduce who will wind up in Cooperstown this summer.

First-time candidates Chipper Jones, the longtime Atlanta Braves third baseman, and Jim Thome, the burly first baseman who blasted 612 home runs in his major-league career, look like locks. Outfielder Vladimir Guerrero will also breeze in after falling just 15 votes shy of induction last year.

Meanwhile, San Diego Padres closer Trevor Hoffman and Seattle Mariners designated hitter Edgar Martinez remain right on the cusp, with at least one, if not both, positioned to clear the 75% hurdle.

But perhaps more intriguing than who will comprise the Class of 2018 is some of the players who won't—at least not yet. So with that, here are three takeaways from this election cycle:

Just Say No...to PEDs

Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens, two all-time greats whose historic production has been tarnished by their suspected use of performance-enhancing drugs, saw a surge on the ballot last year. In their fifth turn on the ballot, both had their vote totals jump from around 45% into the mid-50s, sparking speculation that they could eventually be enshrined.



That momentum for Bonds and Clemens has stalled. As of Tuesday afternoon, Bonds and Clemens had each flipped a net of just two writers from last year and are projected to finish within a few percentage points of last year. Though new voters tend to support Bonds and Clemens, the data suggests the turnover in the ranks won't be enough to bring the duo to 75%.

"The mindsets that were available to change have changed," said Ryan Thibodaux, a baseball fan

who tracks publicly available Hall ballots. "Their only hope is the turnover of voters is enough to make up that ground."

Good Bat or Great Glove?

Though modern defensive metrics continue to gain popularity in the mainstream, defense-first Hall candidates continue to be a tough sell for voters. In his debut on the ballot, 11-time Gold Glove-winning shortstop Omar Vizquel is tracking at around 31% at this point. Out-

fielder Andruw Jones, who won 10 Gold Gloves of his own, has fared even worse, so far appearing on just 6% of ballots.

Defensive wizards have found a home in the Hall in the past. Shortstop Ozzie Smith, second baseman Bill Mazeroski and third baseman Brooks Robinson are in, for instance, despite average or even below-average offensive resumes. But those players are widely considered to be the best fielders ever at their positions. Vizquel and

Jones aren't—but they're close.

John Dewan, the president of Baseball Info Solutions and an expert in defensive statistics, says that the data suggests that no more than 15 or 20% of a player's total worth derives from defense. As a result, he understands voters saving the Hall for the best of the best.

"I'm Mr. Defense, but it's still not as important as how you hit," Dewan said. "I don't really have a hard time with people questioning it."

Looking to the Future

A few, perhaps surprising, players have received more support than in the past, pointing to an eventual induction. Chief among them: Mike Mussina, the former Baltimore Orioles and New York Yankees pitcher, is expected to jump from 51.8% last year into the 60s, which Thibodaux says "all but assures he'll get in."

Another once-ignored candidate suddenly climbing into contention is outfielder Larry Walker, who received just 20.3% of the vote in 2011, his first time on the ballot. Walker has thus far enjoyed a net gain of 30 writers who didn't vote for him the year before.

So while Walker once "looked dead in the water," Thibodaux now believes that he can make a late run. He added that Mussina and Walker are often named as players voters would choose if they weren't limited to a maximum of 10 each year.

"Voters wanted to vote for them all along, but they were their 11th or 12th choice," Thibodaux said.

BASKETBALL

NBA'S SEASON OF ANGST

BY BEN COHEN

HERE'S AN INCOMPLETE list of events that happened around the NBA from Monday afternoon to Monday evening alone:

- Milwaukee Bucks coach Jason Kidd was fired.

- The Cleveland Cavaliers held what ESPN called a "fiery team meeting" to discuss their annual meltdown.

- Michael Jordan contacted the Charlotte Observer to address reports of the Hornets shopping Kemba Walker.

- Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard reportedly asked for a private meeting with Portland owner Paul Allen to discuss the future of the organization.

- The San Antonio Spurs—even the Spurs!—found themselves fighting ESPN's report of a "chill-

ing effect" between the team and star Kawhi Leonard.

• Washington Wizards guard John Wall called Dallas Mavericks guard J.J. Barea "just a little midget trying to get mad," to which Barea shot back: "now I have somebody in the NBA that I don't like."

And that was one random weekday in the middle of the season.

The NBA is as much a professional sports league these days as a nightly soap opera complete with polarizing characters, extended story arcs and unexpected plot twists, and Monday's episode managed to cram several weeks of melodrama into one dizzying evening while creating enough cliff-hangers to keep viewers coming back for more.

It wasn't merely a night of basketball. It was sweeps week.

This particular soap opera has



ALEX GOODLET/ASSOCIATED PRESS

seen its audience building for a few years now, but there's an unmistakable difference this season: There's a whole lot more angst. There is so much existential dread that if Kierkegaard were alive he wouldn't bother writing philosophical treatises. He'd be tweeting

about the NBA.

Why is everyone in the NBA so grumpy about everything?

Maybe it's because the regular season began two weeks earlier. Maybe it's because news cycles have been compressed so much that if you turn off your phone for

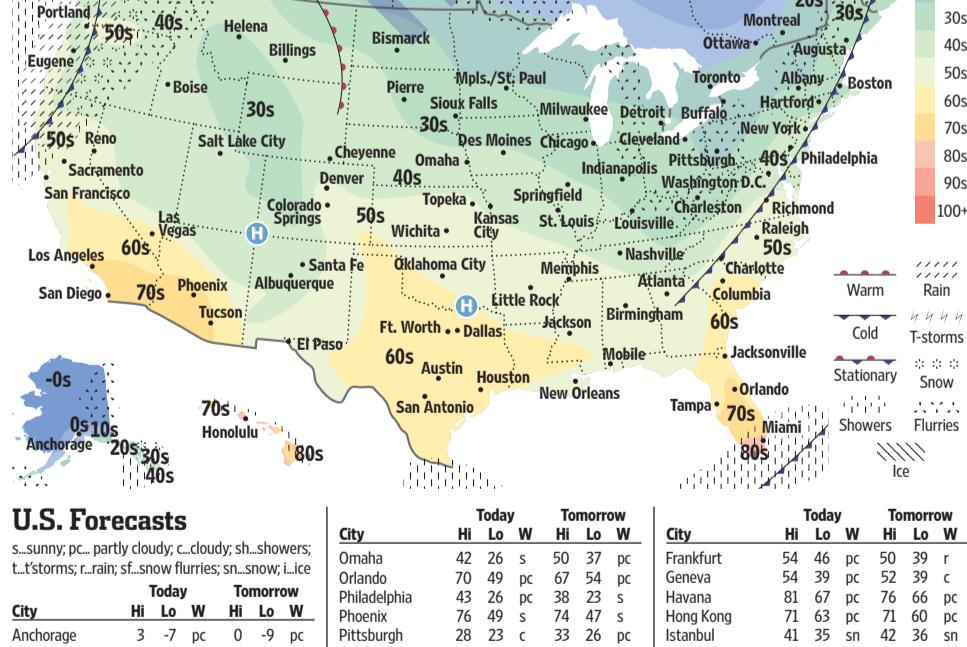
a few hours you miss a few days worth of news, rumors, subtweets and cryptic Instagram posts. Maybe it's because social media has distorted our brains into thinking every little thing is a big deal.

It's probably all that plus the answer to pretty much every interesting question about the NBA: the Golden State Warriors.

There are only a handful of teams that can realistically delude themselves into believing they have a chance to beat the Warriors in a seven-game series. And many of those teams with Warriors envy have also underachieved this year—none more than their opponent in the last three NBA Finals.

At the root of Cleveland's latest crisis is a double whammy of misery. The Cavs understand they're not good enough to challenge Golden State with their current roster. They also understand this might be their last shot with LeBron James. Now they have until the trade deadline of Feb. 8 to do something—anything—to make themselves better and make themselves feel better.

Weather



U.S. Forecasts

s...sunny; pc...partly cloudy; c...cloudy; sh...showers;

t...tstorms; r...rain; sf...snow flurries; sn...snow; l...ice

Today Hi Lo W Today Hi Lo W

City Anchorage 3 -7 pc 0 -9 pc

Atlanta 51 31 s 56 33 s

Baltimore 44 26 s 40 22 s

Boise 47 35 c 44 30 c

Boston 39 21 pc 29 18 s

Burlington 28 7 c 17 7 pc

Charlotte 55 28 s 54 30 s

Chicago 34 25 pc 43 34 pc

Cleveland 30 24 sf 37 31 pc

Dallas 64 37 s 66 47 s

Denver 50 30 s 56 22 pc

Detroit 30 20 c 35 28 pc

Honolulu 84 70 pc 83 69 sh

Houston 63 38 pt 63 47 pc

Indianapolis 33 23 pc 46 33 s

Kansas City 48 33 s 58 43 s

Las Vegas 60 39 pc 64 38 pc

Little Rock 56 31 s 60 33 s

Los Angeles 75 49 pc 63 47 c

Miami 80 64 sh 73 67 s

Milwaukee 30 23 pc 39 32 pc

Minneapolis 31 20 pc 36 33 c

Nashville 46 25 s 55 32 s

New Orleans 56 40 c 59 46 s

New York City 42 24 pc 34 23 s

Dublin 48 38 sh 45 34 sh

Oklahoma City 58 34 s 61 42 s

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Indianapolis 33 23 pc 46 33 s

Kansas City 48 33 s 58 43 s

Las Vegas 60 39 pc 64 38 pc

Little Rock 56 31 s 60 33 s

Los Angeles 75 49 pc 63 47 c

Miami 80 64 sh 73 67 s

Milwaukee 30 23 pc 39 32 pc

Minneapolis 31 20 pc 36 33 c

Nashville 46 25 s 55 32 s

New Orleans 56 40 c 59 46 s

New York City 42 24 pc 34 23 s

Dublin 48 38 sh 45 34 sh

Oklahoma City 58 34 s 61 42 s

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Denver 50 30 s 56 22 pc

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Las Vegas 60 39 pc 64 38 pc

Little Rock 56 31 s 60 33 s

Los Angeles 75 49 pc 63 47 c

Miami 80 64 sh 73 67 s

Milwaukee 30 23 pc 39 32 pc

Minneapolis 31 20 pc 36 33 c

OPINION

Trump's Russian Money



BUSINESS WORLD

By Holman W. Jenkins, Jr.

Before we come to the insinuations of money laundering, which Steve Bannon believes to be the Trump clan's real vulnerability in the Mueller investigation, let's understand that the sticks in U.S.-Russia relations have consisted mostly of NATO expansions and democracy promotion.

The carrots have been mainly economic, understood to include a welcome to capital flight that, if we take Russian law more seriously than the Russians do, amounts to an openness to money laundering.

Occasionally there have been flare-ups, as when \$10 billion turned up at the Bank of New York after Russia's 1998 International Monetary Fund bailout. Murders of Putin opponents in London have had to be papered over not just in the interest of banks and real-estate sellers, but because allied governments agreed it was prudent to let Russian oligarchs use Western banks.

Mr. Trump's participation in this market is unimpressive in perspective. He bought a mansion in Florida out of bankruptcy for \$41 million and sold it four years later to a Russian billionaire for \$95 million. His son Don Jr. told an audience in 2008, "We see a lot of money pouring in from Russia," presumably related to the family's

condo developments. This, at a time when more than a fifth of all £10 million-plus properties in London were selling to Russians, when Russians were buying up sports teams, factories, even big chunks of Facebook and Twitter.

Mr. Trump failed in his dream to build Trump Tower in Moscow, probably because local investors were looking for ways to get money out of Russia, not for ways to reinvest it locally while paying extra to put the Trump name on a building.

What about his reliance on Deutsche Bank, whose rogue employee in Moscow (fingered by the bank itself) cost it \$630 million last year in money-laundering fines? From one rogue operator in Moscow, it's a leap to suppose the bank's wealth-management office in New York made itself a vehicle for illicit Russian loans to the Trump Organization.

Don't his Russian dealings make President Trump susceptible to blackmail? This idea is grossly exaggerated. Think of the KGB files on JFK or Bill Clinton. The trouble the U.S. refrains from making for Vladimir Putin, by not revealing its own files on Russia, attests to a mutually assured destruction that greatly limits this weapon so beloved by conspiracy theorists.

It's also worth noticing how readily the financial carrot became a stick after the Crimea grab, despite the wailing of Western financiers and developers. Sanctions were imposed on top Russians where it hurt, limiting their access to Western banks. Of special note is a clampdown launched in early 2016 on big-ticket real-estate purchases made with cash, aimed specifically at Manhattan and Miami.

Factor in a shrinking approval rate, a Democratic takeover of the House, a GOP no longer keen to defend its president. There was always something profoundly injudicious, in an age of lunatic partisan warfare, about somebody with Mr. Trump's baggage seeking the White House in the first place, however much Americans like to think even real-estate developers can grow up to be president.

Still, fruitful would be an honest reassessment of Russia policy since the Soviet collapse. Here's some news to everyone except the global oligarchs gathered this week in Davos to hear Mr. Trump: It long has been understood that a Western openness to Russian flight capital is a key safety valve of the Putin regime. It props up Russian stability. No local would invest in the local economy if there weren't a way to get his or her highly stealable winnings off the table. Not for nothing was the 2016 visit by a Russian lawyer to Trump Tower concerned with the U.S. Magnitsky Act, a loaded gun aimed at the Russian elite's enjoyment of Western financial services.

Even today U.S. policy toward Russia is leavened with a large element of hope-for-the-best because other options aren't obvious. There has been no effort to shut down Russian energy sales. Sanctions have been pinpricks aimed at getting the attention of Mr. Putin's billionaire friends. The truth is, whatever his past in Russia, Mr. Trump has little room to reinvent this wheel.

Eyebrows went up at the time. Weren't these markets near and dear to the Trump Organization? Yet the Trump administration has not only expanded the crackdown but extended it to deals financed by wire transfer.

One lesson is that money-laundering enforcement is inevitably political. For years the U.S. government ignored suspicious-activity reports from U.S. banks related to Mexican officials—until the Mexican government itself in the 1990s signaled it was ready to weather a crackdown.

Mr. Bannon, with his usual knee-deepness, therefore is onto something. Words can be found in statutes to criminalize practically anybody who participates in what the government later decides was a suspicious transaction.

Yes, it would be a grotesque case of selective prosecution to go after a president because he sold condos to rich Russians.

The Art of the Immigration Deal

POLITICS & IDEAS
By William A. Galston

With the brief government shutdown behind us, we can return to the substance of the debate, which goes to the heart of the Trump presidency.

Immigration did more than any other issue to mobilize the coalition that brought President Trump to power. It was the principal theme of his announcement remarks and the emotional heart of his campaign rallies. A "big, beautiful wall" along our border with Mexico was—and remains—his most memorable promise.

Along with 60% of Americans, I regard a major expansion of the wall as a wasteful and ineffective means to the widely agreed-upon end of border security. In a survey the Pew Research Center conducted last week, only four out of 21 groups gave majority support to a wall—white evangelical Protestants (65%), white Catholics (55%), whites with a high school diploma or less (57%), and Americans age 50-64 (50%). This is a good X-ray of the president's remaining base as his administration enters its second year.

In all, only 37% of Americans think adding a substantially expanded wall on the southern border is a good idea. But we have reached a point at which the sentiments of the majority are politically secondary. It is

unimaginable that Mr. Trump will break faith with his supporters on this matter. Any deal, broad or narrow, will have to acknowledge this reality.

When it comes to the beneficiaries of President Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, however, the public is not divided along partisan lines, or any others. Seventy-four percent of Americans endorse granting legal status to immigrants brought here illegally as children, with 21% opposed. The measure has majority support from every group in the electorate—including Mr. Trump's core supporters and Republicans as a whole.

The reasons are clear: Not only did Dreamers come to the U.S. through no fault or decision of their own, but this is the only country they really know. They are de facto Americans with clean legal records who want only to contribute to their country—this country. Many of them are already doing so in the private sector, nonprofit civil-society organizations, and the U.S. military. It would be self-defeating as well as immoral to expel them. The case for regularizing their status, and giving them a place in the queue leading to citizenship, is compelling.

At the same time, there is merit to the Republican argument that granting permanent status to DACA recipients without fixing the flawed system that helped create this situation would be self-defeating. Seventy-two percent of

Republicans support the construction of a wall, while only 24% oppose it. There can be no resolution to the DACA controversy that does not include some portion of Mr. Trump's wall.

In principle, anyway, the way forward is clear. The immigration issue should be addressed in two stages. Phase One would be a focused bargain: regularize the status of DACA recipients while appropriating the funds needed to secure the border—with a wall

Phase One: DACA and the wall. Phase Two would involve more fundamental reform.

where needed. As Marc Short, the White House director of legislative affairs, has acknowledged, this agreement should include not only the young people who already signed up for DACA but also those eligible for the program who missed the signing deadline, whether from fear, negligence or lack of information.

For their part, Democrats would be equally generous, agreeing to full funding for border security, not just a down payment.

Phase Two of an immigration solution would include a wider range of issues. Republicans are eager to end the diversity lottery program, enhance enforcement in the

workplace, and reorient policy away from family reunification and toward a merit-based metric of individual contribution. For their part, Democrats want to regularize the status of immigrants who came to the U.S. illegally and to repair arbitrary and demeaning features of the current enforcement regime. Both parties have a stake in reforms that would expand opportunities for new immigrants to learn English and acquire a basic knowledge of American history and government.

No doubt other issues would arise during a broader Phase Two negotiation. For example, Sens. Tom Cotton and David Perdue would push for their proposed 50% cut in legal immigration. In my judgment, this policy makes little sense as we enter decades in which the growth of the U.S. labor force is expected to slow dramatically. Still, these and other lawmakers would have a fair opportunity to make their cases.

Despite the deep feelings on both sides, Mr. Trump's credibility with anti-immigration hard-liners creates an unprecedented opportunity to resolve this controversy, which has poisoned American politics for more than a decade. In this instance, the overused "Nixon goes to China" analogy makes sense. The president really has a chance to make America greater if he is willing to bite the bullet and make a deal. And the time to begin Phase One is now.

This constructed tradition seemingly contained the seeds of its own collapse. Ms. Stahl follows the efforts of religious groups to use the chaplaincy to advance their own agendas. She argues, for instance, that the success of Jewish efforts to be included in the chaplaincy during World War I signaled Jewish integration into the American mainstream as the military was the first to adopt the "tri-faith" categorization of American religion into "Protestant, Catholic, and Jew."

However bureaucratic useful, this classification was both over- and underinclusive: overinclusive because "Protestant" encompassed groups ranging from the Eastern Orthodox to the Mormons; underinclusive because it excluded other historic faiths, such as Buddhism.

During the Cold War, the taxonomy was challenged by increasing denominationalism, especially among evangelical Protestants. When liberal religious groups abandoned the chaplaincy during the Vietnam War, the vacuum was filled by evangelicals intent on proselytizing. In the ensuing decades, the increased diversity of the all-volunteer military undermined what remained of the tripartite classification. In 2017, as the book ends, a pragmatic military was accommodating some 221 faith groups.

The story proceeds at a granular level—thus the reader learns that a wartime chaplains manual might be delayed when the best typist in the Army Chief of Chaplains office quits because of a long commute. It reaches deeply into archival materials, including correspondence and diaries, as it details the evolution of a bureaucracy afflicted with a bewildering array of acronyms. Importantly, it uses these materials to give sympathetic voice to the often moving stories of individuals, such as Father Kapaun, who exemplify the best in human nature. Given the focus on ground-level activity, however, readers hoping for an in-depth discussion of the broader historical tradition of American civil religion—or for an analysis of the vexing constitutional issues that arise when the government, through the military, provides religious programs—will find themselves disappointed.

Moreover, the narrative is taxed by a reflexive liberalism that sits uneasily with its often appreciative treatment of the military. The Vietnam War is unquestionably "immoral." The Cold War chaplaincy embraced the "centrality of religion to the warfare state" and became a cog in the "military-spiritual complex." Disturbingly, a number of mistaken word choices stud the book: "urbane" for "urban," "earned the aplomb" for "earned the approval," "quivered" for "equivocated." Still, "Enlisting Faith" deserves to be read by anyone interested in an underexplored aspect of the intersection of religion and the state or, even more, in the stories of those who honorably served them both.

Ms. Arkin is a professor at Fordham University School of Law.

By Paul R. LePage

Augusta, Maine Obesity is a problem in America, and it's a problem in Maine. In 1990, my state's obesity rate was 11%. Now it's 30%, putting us 26th in the nation. I'd like to be in the middle of the pack when it comes to the tax burden, but not to obesity.

That's why Maine has twice asked for a federal waiver to exclude purchases of candy and sugary beverages from our state's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The first request was denied by the Obama administration in 2016, the second by the Trump administration last week.

Eating right is hard enough for SNAP recipients given their tight budgets. Allowing food stamps to be spent on candy and soda is detrimental to recipients' health and antithetical to the program's purpose.

Like other states, Maine is experiencing an epidemic of

obesity and related illnesses, such as Type 2 diabetes and heart disease. Numerous studies have shown the detrimental effects of consuming high levels of sugar. Federal dietary guidelines say that "beverages account for almost half (47%) of all added sugars consumed by the U.S. population."

Maine wants a waiver to stop SNAP paying for sweets and soda.

These alarming trends continue despite the federal dollars spent on nutrition education through the SNAP-Ed program. Maine would like to try a different approach.

Implementing this waiver would align Maine's SNAP with the allowable healthy foods under the federally funded school-lunch program and the Women, Infants and Children nutrition program.

This would reinforce the message of eating healthy both in schools and at home.

Restrictions on SNAP purchases have long been part of the program. Food stamps can't be used to buy alcohol, vitamins, hot foods or anything to be eaten in the store. This waiver would simply expand the list to align SNAP with the program's stated goal of "providing food assistance to raise levels of nutrition among low-income individuals."

The federal government has raised concerns about implementing the restrictions on candy and sugary drinks. But Maine already taxes foods that have little or no nutritional value, which would make it easier for retailers to identify the SNAP-banned items.

Some critics argue that the government should not restrict food choices, calling it a "nanny state" intervention. I reject this. We are investing

public tax dollars in a nutrition program to ensure families

have enough to eat. Besides, WIC already restricts food choices. Why should SNAP be any different?

Maine worked with experts at both Harvard and the University of New England to develop our waiver request. Last year in the New England Journal of Medicine, two professors from Harvard and one from Duke suggested "a pilot study examining whether restricting purchases of sugary beverages with SNAP benefits improves diet quality."

More than 13% of Maine's population uses SNAP benefits. This waiver would not only improve our state's health, it would help the children in these families grow up learning to make better food choices. Maine wants to put the N—nutrition—back into SNAP. Why is the Trump administration standing in the way?

Mr. LePage, a Republican, is governor of Maine.

BOOKSHELF | By Marc M. Arkin

In the Foxhole, Leading Prayers

Enlisting Faith

By Ronit Y. Stahl
(Harvard, 348 pages, \$39.95)

On July 17, 1950, early in the Korean War, Chaplain Emil Kapaun wrote to his Catholic superior: "Tomorrow we are going into combat." Two months later, he entered Pyongyang with the 8th Cavalry. On Nov. 1, after celebrating All Saints' Day mass, he helped dig a foxhole and, with the temperature hovering around 20 degrees, bivouacked in the hills above the northern town of Unsan with his battalion. They were awakened by a surprise attack from the Chinese, and Father Kapaun soon found himself a prisoner of war marching north.

On the long trek over frozen terrain, Father Kapaun carried the wounded, encouraged the faltering and buried the dead, including his fellow chaplain, a Protestant. When the group reached a POW camp, he surreptitiously foraged for food at night, relayed messages between officers and enlisted men, and led forbidden worship among the ranks. Relocated closer

to the Chinese border, he continued to scavenge for food and offer hymns to raise men's spirits. As one survivor recalled: While "the majority of us had turned into animals, . . . the good priest conducted himself as a human being." On May 23, 1951, 10 months after landing on the Korean Peninsula, Father Kapaun succumbed to a combination of starvation, dysentery and pneumonia. Buried in a mass grave, he was honored by his prisoner-congregation with a wooden cross hand-carved by one of the captives, a Jew.

Father Kapaun's heroic service—he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor—exemplified the ideals of the military chaplaincy. Unarmed, he served as an officer on the front lines. He celebrated Catholic services for the men who shared his faith and provided comfort to soldiers of all religions, burying them according to their own rites when no one else was available. In this, he followed the U.S. military's code rather than the teachings of the Vatican, which then forbade such interfaith activity. His mission was a fine balancing of particularism and pluralism in the service of his country and his faith.

Although chaplains have accompanied American troops into battle since George Washington led the Continental Army, World War I transformed the military chaplaincy into a professional officer corps. The wartime draft had swept up men from divergent backgrounds, and the military turned to the chaplaincy to help bring readiness, cohesion and discipline to raw conscripts. In early 1917, Congress set uniform standards for the corps, requiring that chaplains be ordained ministers of "some religious denomination." Chaplains were to be trained clergy dedicated to religious inclusivity—hired, paid and supervised by the federal government.

In "Enlisting Faith," a history of the modern chaplaincy, Ronit Stahl—a fellow in ethics and policy at the University of Pennsylvania's medical school—contends that the military constructed a new civic religious ideal, a non-denominational "moral monotheism" that, in turn, reshaped the wider civilian culture. In World War I, this ideal of "religious comity"

Chaplains have been a part of the American military from the beginning, but in modern times their role has changed dramatically.

was epitomized by a Baptist chaplain who administered the Lord's Supper at a Catholic altar after preaching at a Jewish service. It continues, Ms. Stahl says, in the many "interfaith" services in which Christian chaplains assiduously avoid the mention of Jesus.

This constructed tradition seemingly contained the seeds of its own collapse. Ms. Stahl follows the efforts of religious groups to use the chaplaincy to advance their own agendas. She argues, for instance, that the success of Jewish efforts to be included in the chaplaincy during World War I signaled Jewish integration into the American mainstream as the military was the first to adopt the "tri-faith" categorization of American religion into "Protestant, Catholic, and Jew." However bureaucratic useful, this classification was both over- and underinclusive: overinclusive because "Protestant" encompassed groups ranging from the Eastern Orthodox to the Mormons; underinclusive because it excluded other historic faiths, such as Buddhism.

During the Cold War, the taxonomy was challenged by increasing denominationalism, especially among evangelical Protestants. When liberal religious groups abandoned the chaplaincy during the Vietnam War, the vacuum was filled by evangelicals intent on proselytizing. In the ensuing decades, the increased diversity of the all-volunteer military undermined what remained of the tripartite classification. In 2017, as the book ends, a pragmatic military was accommodating some 221 faith groups.

The story proceeds at a granular level—thus the reader learns that a wartime chaplains manual might be delayed when the best typist in the Army Chief of Chaplains office quits because of a long commute. It reaches deeply into archival materials, including correspondence and diaries, as it details the evolution of a bureaucracy afflicted with a bewildering array of acronyms. Importantly, it uses these materials to give sympathetic voice to the often moving stories of individuals, such as Father Kapaun, who exemplify the best in human nature. Given the focus on ground-level activity, however, readers hoping for an in-depth discussion of the broader historical tradition of American civil religion—or for an analysis of the vexing constitutional issues that arise when the government, through the military, provides religious programs—will find themselves disappointed.

Moreover, the narrative is taxed by a reflexive liberalism that sits uneasily with its often appreciative treatment of the military. The Vietnam War is unquestionably "immoral." The Cold War chaplaincy embraced the "centrality of religion to the warfare state" and became a cog in the "military-spiritual complex." Disturbingly, a number of mistaken word choices stud the book: "urbane" for "urban," "earned the aplomb" for "earned the approval," "quivered" for "equivocated." Still, "Enlisting Faith" deserves to be read by anyone interested in an underexplored aspect of the intersection of religion and the state or, even more, in the stories of those who honorably served them both.

Ms. Arkin is a professor at Fordham University School of Law.

OPINION

REVIEW & OUTLOOK

Trump Starts His Trade War

Can Donald Trump stand prosperity? Fresh from a government shutdown victory and with the U.S. economy on a roll, the President decided on Tuesday to kick off his long-promised war on imports—and American consumers. This isn't likely to go the way Mr. Trump imagines.

"Our action today helps to create jobs in America for Americans," Mr. Trump declared as he imposed tariffs on solar cells and washing machines. "You're going to have a lot of plants built in the United States that were thinking of coming, but they would never have come unless we did this."

The scary part is he really seems to believe this. And toward that end he imposed a new 30% tariff on crystalline silicon photovoltaic cells and solar modules to benefit two bankrupt companies, and a new 20%-50% tariff on washing machines to benefit Whirlpool Corp. The tariffs will hurt many more companies and people, and that's before other countries retaliate.

The solar tariff is a response to a petition filed at the International Trade Commission by two U.S.-based manufacturers—Chinese-owned Suniva, which filed for bankruptcy last year, and German-owned SolarWorld Americas, whose parent company filed for bankruptcy last year. Under Section 201 of U.S. trade law, the companies don't need to show evidence of dumping or foreign subsidies. They merely have to show they were hurt by imports, which is to say by competition.

The two companies once employed some 3,200 Americans. But the wider solar industry, which depends on price-competitive cells as a basic component, supports some 260,000 U.S. jobs. Costs will rise immediately for this value-added part of the industry, which the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) says includes the manufacture of "metal racking, high tech inverters, machines that improve solar output by tracking the sun and other electrical products."

The Journal reported Tuesday that the Trump tariff may spur an unnamed panel manufacturer to invest in a new plant in Florida that will create 800 new jobs. But SEIA says it expects that the tariff will cost 23,000 U.S. jobs this year alone. It will also mean that billions of dollars of solar investments are likely to be

His new tariffs punish many for the sake of three companies.

postponed or canceled. Utility companies facing green-energy mandates from state governments will also suffer as it gets more costly to deliver solar-produced electricity.

Mr. Trump will also make doing the laundry great again, or at least more expensive, with a new 20% tariff on the first 1.2 million imported washing machines every year. Above that the tariff will go to 50%. Don't even think about assembling a washer with foreign parts, which get whacked with a 50% tariff above 50,000 imported units in the first year.

Goldman Sachs analyst Samuel Eisner wrote Tuesday that consumers can expect price increases for new machines of 8%-20% depending on how much of the tariff the manufacturers decide to eat. Producers and workers are also losers. LG Electronics USA noted Tuesday that its new plant to make washers in Clarksville, Tenn., will be "the most advanced factory in the world" but warned that the tariff "hinders the ramp-up of the new plant and threatens many new U.S. jobs."

Manufacturers will also lose flexibility in sourcing parts, which is critical to competitiveness. In South Carolina, where Samsung has a new \$380 million appliance plant, the Trump tariffs aren't welcome. Republican Gov. Henry McMaster is worried they'll hurt the investment climate and invite retaliation.

Mr. Trump conducts trade policy as if U.S. trading partners have no recourse. With exports of \$30.9 billion in 2016 and among the country's highest level of exports per capita, South Carolina knows better. By justifying tariffs solely on the failure to compete, Mr. Trump is inviting other countries to do the same for their struggling companies. Their case at the World Trade Organization will also be a layup, allowing legal retaliation against U.S. exports.

By the way, if Mr. Trump thinks these new border taxes will hurt China, he's mistaken again. China ran a distant fourth as a producer of solar cell and modules for the U.S. in 2017, after Malaysia, South Korea and Vietnam. Korea and Mexico are the two largest exporters of washing machines to the U.S. Mr. Trump's tariffs are an economic blunderbuss that will hit America's friends abroad and Mr. Trump's forgotten men and women at home.

DACA and Deportation

Republicans won the government shutdown showdown because Democrats overplayed their hand. Led by their resistance wing, Democrats tried to use the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program to demonize their opponents. They failed to recognize that while Americans don't wish to deport the 800,000 or so Dreamers brought here as children, they don't want the government shut down over it.

But Republicans who believe they can profit from politicizing DACA are also kidding themselves, as two recent stories that went national show. On Martin Luther King Day in Detroit, U.S. immigration agents deported Jorge Garcia to Mexico. Mr. Garcia was brought to the U.S. as a 10-year-old, is married to a U.S. citizen and has two American children. Footage of the 39-year-old being separated from his crying family was wrenching. When or whether he will be able to return to the U.S., where he has spent his adult life, is unknown.

Then there's Emmanuel Mensah, an immigrant from Ghana, one of those countries Pres-

The human face of the immigration debate.

ident Trump recently referred to with an expletive. Mensah had recently finished training for the Army National Guard and was waiting to begin drilling with the 107th Military Police Company at Brooklyn's Fort Hamilton. He was home in the Bronx for the holidays when a fire broke out in his apartment building. Private Mensah entered the burning building several times to rescue those trapped inside and was killed in the effort. He was awarded the Soldier's Medal, which the Army bestows for heroism outside conflict with an enemy.

These are the human faces of our polarized immigration debate. If Republicans don't want to spend the next three years defending deportations of people like Mr. Garcia, or being reminded about Mr. Trump's expletive, they should work with Democrats on a DACA compromise. Americans want to know that the U.S. isn't admitting criminals or terrorists, but they're also offended by breaking up families or demonizing immigrants who make America great.

The FBI's Missing Emails

The Justice Department has dropped a second tranche of text exchanges between FBI agents Peter Strzok and Lisa Page—conveniently delivering them to the Senate at the start of last Friday night's government shutdown. Investigators are still plowing through the 384 pages, but preliminary findings raise new questions about FBI political maneuvering during the 2016 election.

Among the biggest news is what wasn't in the Friday delivery: The FBI claims to have "failed" to capture text messages between Mr. Strzok and Ms. Page between December 14, 2016 and May 17, 2017. This period coincides with the height of the FBI's investigation into possible Trump-Russia collusion, on which Mr. Strzok was a lead investigator. The FBI is blaming this five-month missing link on "misconfiguration issues related to rollouts, provisioning, and software upgrades."

These are the folks trusted to sort out Hillary Clinton's missing emails. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Chairman Ron Johnson on Saturday wrote to FBI director Christopher Wray asking how many other FBI records were lost. Imagine how Mr. Wray's agents would treat a private individual's failure to turn over comparable records.

Mr. Johnson's letter also revealed more reason to believe the FBI's probe into Mrs. Clinton's email server may have included political calculations. Congress already knows through internal memos that the FBI watered down the language in Mr. Comey's July 2016 Clinton exoneration statement—from the legally culpable "grossly

negligent" to "extremely careless."

But the latest texts show the FBI also eliminated evidence that Mrs. Clinton compromised high-level communications. A June 30, 2016 draft of Mr. Comey's statement noted that Mrs. Clinton had engaged in "an email exchange with [President Obama]" via her private server while on the

"territory of sophisticated adversaries." That same afternoon, Mr. Strzok texts Ms. Page to tell her that, in fact, senior officials had decided to water down the reference to President Obama to "another senior government official." By the time Mr. Comey gave his public statement on July 5, both references—to Mr. Obama and to "another senior government official"—had disappeared.

And while Mr. Comey made much in his statement about how he had "not coordinated or reviewed [his] statement in any way with the Department of Justice or any other part of the government," the Strzok-Page texts indicate otherwise. On July 1, 2016, former Attorney General Loretta Lynch announced she would remove herself from any decision to prosecute Mr. Clinton and accept the FBI's judgment. In a text that day, Mr. Strzok complains about her statement and notes that Mrs. Lynch is hardly "a real profile in courage (sic), since she knows no charges will be brought." This is the day before the FBI interviewed Mrs. Clinton.

All of this should be troubling to Americans who admire the FBI and want it to be above politics. The vanishing texts and partisan texting are more reasons for Congress to share all it knows about the FBI and the 2016 campaign with the public.

More reasons to question the bureau's 2016 election actions.

Letters intended for publication should be addressed to: The Editor, 1211 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036, or emailed to wsj.ltrs@wsj.com. Please include your city and state. All letters are subject to editing, and unpublished letters can be neither acknowledged nor returned.

HAO (VIVIAN) ZHOU
Hangzhou, China

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trump and World Democracy After One Year

William Galston has it backward ("Trump and the Decline of Democracy," Politics & Ideas, Jan. 17). President Trump is a greater supporter of freedom than his predecessor was,

hands down. President Obama sent troops home to leave a post-surge Iraq to crumble, embraced Cuba, turned his back on Israel and looked the other way on Venezuela, Ukraine and North Korea. This doesn't even include the abominable Iran deal. President Trump is moving us back into more supportive roles. The ISIS caliphate in Iraq and Syria is all but gone. We are finally making arms available to Ukraine. He is at least acknowledging the horrors the Venezuelans and Iranians are enduring, as well as his unhappiness with Cuba. He is much more supportive of Israel. And Kim Jong Un understands better that the U.S. isn't to be trifled with. Blaming Donald Trump for Turkey's long slide since Ataturk-like secular government disappeared and for the Arab Spring, which President Obama and Hillary Clinton completely misread, is just wrong.

A great preponderance of the backward world-wide slide in freedom took place during the Obama administration, which thought if we were nice to everyone (including the bad guys) they'd like us and see the error in their ways.

PATRICK G. BROWN
Orlando, Fla.

Could it be that the cited poor Quinnipiac poll results are nothing more than the consequences of the relentless 90%-plus negative news media coverage of the current administration since the electoral shock of 2016?

PHILIP MELITA
Charlottesville, Va.

How in one year does this president get credit for reducing American and world democracy? Could it possibly be the result of the prior eight years when: The IRS stomped on conservative organizations with no consequences, the FBI leadership, by all accounts, became political and forgot that Congress has oversight responsibility, political correctness became the byword over freedom of speech, leading from behind helped ISIS take over much of the Middle East? In addition, Russia and China extended their influence in the world, the president's pen changed laws without the need for the

ARI WEITZNER
NEW YORK

I suggest Mr. Galston go see "Darkest Hour" for an example of what leadership is and take careful note of what Winston Churchill's detractors were saying about him as he took office: delusional, dangerous, etc. Like Churchill, President Trump has vision and the courage of his convictions.

VINCENT McCORD
Santa Monica, Calif.

I love the numbers from the Quinnipiac poll that Mr. Galston cites—the same poller which had Hillary Clinton winning Pennsylvania by five points in 2016.

For the first time in a long time the American agenda has been put at the forefront, while the globalist agenda has been squashed.

TODD M. HAMPTON
Long Beach, Calif.

BBG Is Doing Its Job, Aiding Iranian Protests

Regarding your editorial "Iran's Internet Imperative" (Jan. 18): As board chairman of the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG), I can proudly say that the agency is a recognized global pioneer in creating secure platforms for those suffering under repressive regimes around the world. The Open Technology Fund, a competitive internet freedom tech-centric, private-sector program managed by Radio Free Asia (one of the networks overseen by the BBG), has nurtured the development of research and field-driven interventions that sustain secure anticensorship and communication technologies advancing hundreds of

millions of citizens' access to free expression without fear of repressive surveillance.

CEO John Lansing has dramatically grown our digital efforts and broadened the number of tools and vendors available to increase and improve BBG's anticensorship efforts. Mr. Lansing was not "appointed by President Obama," but selected by a bipartisan board comprised of policy experts.

These investments have enabled us to support innovative circumvention and encryption tools, including tools provided by UltraReach, which the BBG has funded for over 10 years. Through localization efforts, more than 60 of these tools are available in over 200 languages and dialects to millions of people in repressive societies, including China and Russia. Although you acknowledge that "Iranians are flocking by the millions to use circumvention software like Psiphon and Lantern," you fail to reveal that Psiphon and Lantern were available in part because they have received BBG support.

Millions of Iranians also relied on Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Persian web, mobile, TV and radio platforms.

In this fiscally restrained environment we continue to grow our world-wide audience (close to 300 million people on a weekly basis) and develop critical programming.

KENNETH R. WEINSTEIN
Chairman
Broadcasting Board of Governors
Washington

Pepper ... And Salt

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



"Come on, Ginger, it's not the end of the world - there'll be other carpets to ruin."

OPINION

Pence Visits Israel's Capital

By Meir Soloveichik

Jerusalem

As I walked out of the Knesset following Vice President Mike Pence's Monday afternoon address, an Israeli cameraman turned to me with a jovial expression. Speaking in Hebrew, he asked me about the man whose speech he had just heard: "Was that the messiah, or the vice president of the United States?" He was, perhaps, referring to the rapturous reception Mr. Pence had received from the Knesset members and the

Multitudes of gentiles are also Zionists. That has no precedent in the Jews' millennia-long history.

hundreds of spectators in the gallery. Yet the cameraman was also probably struck by how religious, and biblically based, the speech was. Mr. Pence threaded his remarks with references to Scripture, a rhetorical technique Knesset audiences have rarely heard from a political leader since Menachem Begin resigned as prime minister in 1983.

Mr. Pence's address was one of the most Zionist speeches ever given by a non-Jew in the Knesset. The vice president is a devout evangelical

Christian, and he said that in the birth of the modern state of Israel, we see nothing less than a fulfillment of the biblical promises of God. The speech was a milestone in American-Israeli relations, and a window into the heart of many American Christians who, like Mr. Pence, observe Israel's emergence with wonder and reverence.

Drawing on the Book of Deuteronomy, Mr. Pence described how through "conquests and expulsions, inquisitions and pogroms," and a Holocaust "that transformed the small faces of children into smoke under a silent sky," the Jewish people nevertheless "held fast to a promise through all the ages, written so long ago, that 'even if you have been banished to the most distant land under the heavens,' from there He would gather and bring you back to the land which your fathers possessed."

Citing Isaiah, Mr. Pence suggested that in Israel's 1948 founding "the Jewish people answered that ancient question: Can a country be born in a day, can a nation be born in a moment?" For Mr. Pence, the birth of modern Israel also reaffirmed the Jews' covenantal bond to both the Holy Land and Jerusalem, where "Abraham offered his son Isaac, and was credited with righteousness for his faith in God," and where "King David consecrated the capital of the Kingdom of Israel." In the emergence of the modern Jewish state, Mr. Pence concluded, we see the hand of God:



EMIL SALMAN-JINIPIX/XINHUA VIA ZUMA WIRE

The vice president at the Knesset Monday.

"The miracle of Israel is an inspiration to the world."

These are powerful words, and many Jews in attendance felt the vice president's description of the Jewish state as a miracle comported with their own view. Yet it is worth noting one wondrous occurrence Mr. Pence didn't mention. For many centuries the Jewish people received little love and much hate from the nations of the world. Today tens of millions of non-Jewish Americans share Mr. Pence's sincere affection for Israel.

As the vice president noted, certain predictions in Hebrew scripture about the Holy Land have actually

come true in the past 70 years: The Jews have returned, their state has been re-formed, and the desert is blooming. Yet Isaiah also predicts that one day multitudes of non-Jews will be moved by devotion to the God who dwells in Jerusalem to shower love upon the people whose capital it has always been. Anti-Semitism is still rampant, of course, and Israel remains surrounded by states seeking its destruction. But the existence of multitudes of gentiles who are also Zionists has no precedent in the Jews' millennia-long history.

Mr. Pence received a sustained and resounding standing ovation

when he spoke in Hebrew. Many visiting statesmen have tried out a Hebrew phrase or two in the Knesset, but the vice president went further than previous American leaders. Noting that April marks the 70th anniversary of Israel's founding, Mr. Pence reflected on this historic milestone: "I say, along with the good people of Israel, here and around the world: *shehecheyanu v'kiyimanu, v'higiyana la'z'man ha'zeh.*"

Strikingly, Mr. Pence didn't translate or explain. The American reporters travelling with the vice president may not have understood what he'd said. But most Jews in attendance recognized his words as an expression of gratitude to God, "who has kept us alive, and sustained us, and allowed us to reach this day." The blessing has been recited by Jews for thousands of years. We speak it when we receive joyous tidings and when we commemorate historical miracles. Many in the audience felt like saying the blessing themselves, not only for the miracle that is Israel, but also for the blessing that is the millions of Americans who, like Mike Pence, love the Jewish state.

It's a blessing that many Israelis, and many Jews around the world, will not soon forget.

Rabbi Soloveichik is minister of Congregation Shearith Israel in New York and director of the Straus Center for Torah and Western Thought of Yeshiva University.

A Rogue Treasury Department Turns Toward the 1930s

By Peter J. Wallison

First, the good news: A group of senators are working on a bill to repeal the government charters of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, according to a report last week in the trade publication American Banker. This would set the U.S. on a course toward a private system for financing mortgages. Now, the bad news: The Treasury Department wants to return to the regulated market that caused the financial crisis.

At first this might seem implausible. The aggressive deregulatory work of the Trump administration has stimulated the U.S. economy, but its Treasury Department is pushing for more extensive regulation of the housing-finance market. Among conservatives, there's an emerging view that the Treasury Department is on a frolic all its own.

The FHFA also expressed concern that too much competition "could increase the potential for a race to the bottom in underwriting standards in pursuit of market share." Its solution is again regulating the rate of return of the Fannie and Freddie successors, "which would limit incentives to unduly relax underwriting standards." Ideas like this hark back to the New Deal. The Roosevelt administration sought to prevent supposedly excessive competition on the theory that it would drive down prices, force companies out of business, and produce more unemployment.

Addressing another major Democratic priority, the FHFA's plan

called for government-backed affordable housing. The utility-like successors to Fannie and Freddie could have "a lower rate of return on purchases serving low-income and moderate-income borrowers." This would ensure that "all taxpayers can

The president shouldn't allow an Obama appointee to guide housing finance policy toward disaster.

share in the benefits of federal support for the housing finance market." Remember that what taxpayers actually "shared" in 2008 was Fannie and Freddie's losses of about \$186 billion.

What caused those losses? Affordable-housing goals. A 1992 law required Fannie and Freddie to reduce their underwriting standards so they could meet quotas for low- and moderate-income mortgages. By 2008, on the eve of the financial crisis, half of all mortgages in the U.S. were sub-prime or otherwise risky. And 76% of those mortgages were on the books of government agencies, primarily

Fannie and Freddie. The government had created the demand for these mortgages.

Treasury apparently has no problem with this. Last week Craig Phillips, counselor to Secretary Steven Mnuchin, said the department was "broadly supportive" of the FHFA's plan. This is disturbing enough, but Treasury is also endorsing some of the details that are far afield of the administration's deregulatory efforts. For example, last week American Banker quoted Mr. Phillips agreeing that the FHFA should use rate regulation to prevent a competitive race to the bottom: "The key is regulation. Whether there is one or five [guarantors], we cannot have weak regulation."

FDR must be smiling. The trouble here is not merely that the Treasury is an outlier in what was supposed to be a deregulatory administration. It is also that the department's current custodians appear to have learned nothing from the financial crisis, which was caused by precisely the policies they now support.

Before the affordable-housing goals were enacted in 1992, Fannie and Freddie would buy only prime mortgages. Although they competed with each other, there was no race to

the bottom. They began to reduce their underwriting standards, with tragic effect, after the affordable-housing goals came into force. The result was the largest housing bubble in American history, followed by a monumental crash in 2008. Another consequence, courtesy of Barney Frank, was the Dodd-Frank Act, which was based on the false idea that the crisis was caused by insufficient regulation of the financial system. President Trump has accurately called the act a "disaster." It overregulated the rest of the financial system but left the insolvent Fannie and Freddie untouched, in the care of the FHFA as conservator.

Housing finance desperately needs reform, but Treasury is moving in the wrong direction—back to the 1930s. The headline on the American Banker story was "Treasury, FHFA see eye to eye on housing reform, top official says." Who would have believed it a year ago?

Mr. Wallison is a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. His most recent book is "Hidden In Plain Sight: What Caused the World's Worst Financial Crisis and Why It Could Happen Again" (Encounter, 2015).

The CFPB Has Pushed Its Last Envelope

By Mick Mulvaney

When I arrived at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau in November, I told employees that despite what they might have heard, I had no intention of shutting down the bureau. As members of the executive branch, we are charged with faithfully executing the law. The law mandates that we enforce consumer-protection laws, and we will continue to do so under my watch.

At the same time, I explained that things would be different under new leadership. Then I read a quote from my predecessor, Richard Cordray, that highlighted how he ran the bureau: "We wanted to send a message: There's a new cop on the beat. . . . Pushing the envelope is a loaded phrase, but that's absolutely what we did." I've seen similar language elsewhere. It's fair to say that the bureau's previous governing philosophy was to "push the envelope" aggressively, under the assumption that we were the good guys and the financial-service industry was the bad guys.

That is going to be different. That entire governing philosophy of pushing the envelope frightens me a little. We are government employees, and we work for the people. That means everyone: those who use credit cards and those who provide the credit; those who take out loans and those who make them; those who buy cars and those who sell them. All of those people are part of what makes this country great, and all of them deserve to be treated fairly by their government. There is a reason Lady Justice wears a blindfold and carries a balance scale along with her sword.

It is not appropriate for any government entity to "push the envelope" when it comes into conflict with our citizens. We have the power to do damage to people that could linger for years and cost them their jobs, their savings and their homes. If the CFPB loses a court case because we "pushed too hard," we simply move on to the next matter. But where do those we charged go to get their time, their money and their

good names back? If a company closes its doors under the weight of a multiyear Civil Investigative Demand, we still have jobs at CFPB. But what about the workers who are laid off as a result?

There will absolutely be times when circumstances require us to take dramatic action to protect consumers. At those times, I expect us to be vigorous in our enforcement of the law. But bringing the full weight of the federal government down on the necks of the people we serve should be something that we do only reluctantly, and only when all other attempts at resolution have failed.

In my office you can find a copy of "A Man for All Seasons," about the life of St. Thomas More. My favorite passage is an exchange between the famous lawyer and his son-in-law, who encouraged More to arrest a man for simply being "bad." His response is one of the most concise and articulate defenses of the rule of law in history:

"This country is planted thick with laws, from coast to coast—man's laws,

not God's—and if you cut them down . . . do you really think you could stand upright in the winds that would blow then? Yes, I'd give the Devil the benefit of the law, for my own safety's sake."

We will exercise our power with humility and prudence to enforce the law faithfully.

Put another way: If you push the envelope now in pursuit of your mission, what's to stop someone else—with a different mission, perhaps—from pushing that envelope against you tomorrow?

What does all of this mean for how we will operate at the bureau? Simply put, we will review everything we do, from investigations to lawsuits and everything in between.

When it comes to enforcement, we will focus on quantifiable and

unavoidable harm to the consumer. If we find that it exists, you can count on us to pursue the appropriate remedies vigorously. If it doesn't, we won't go looking for excuses to bring lawsuits.

On regulation, it seems that the people we regulate should have the right to know what the rules are before being charged with breaking them. This means more formal rule making and less regulation by enforcement.

And we will be prioritizing. In 2016, almost a third of the complaints into this office related to debt collection. Only 0.9% related to prepaid cards and 2% to payday lending. Data like that should, and will, guide our actions.

Speaking of data, the Dodd-Frank Act, which established the CFPB, requires us to "consider the potential costs and benefits to consumers and covered persons." To me, that means quantitative analysis should drive our decisions. And while qualitative analysis certainly can play a role, it should not be to the exclusion of measurable "costs and benefits." There will be a lot more math in our future.

I intend to exercise our statutory authority to enforce the laws of this nation. I intend to execute the statutory mandate of the bureau to protect consumers. But we will no longer go beyond that mandate. If Congress wants us to do more than it set forth in the Dodd-Frank Act, it can change the law.

The CFPB has a new mission: We will exercise, with humility and prudence, the almost unparalleled power Congress has bestowed on us to enforce the law faithfully in furtherance of our mandate. But we go no further. The days of aggressively "pushing the envelope" are over.

Mr. Mulvaney is director of the Office of Management and Budget and acting director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. This article is adapted from a Jan. 24 memo to CFPB staff.

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Notable & Quotable: Stormy

From Jason L. Riley's Upward Mobility column, WSJ.com, Jan. 23:

The government shut down, and most Americans yawned. Reports that Donald Trump has a history of romancing adult film actresses, and then paying them to keep quiet, were greeted with some tittering and then more of the same indifference. . . .

The ho-hum public response to the allegations could reflect scandal fatigue or, sadly, the widespread belief that Donald Trump covering up affairs with porn stars is neither out of character nor any big deal.

But it also could mean that what the president has accomplished in his first year matters more. Jobless claims last week were the lowest on

record in 45 years. Target and Wal-Mart are increasing pay and handing out bonuses. Apple, which has deferred paying taxes on foreign earnings for years, has announced that it is bringing billions in cash back to the U.S. to invest. Visa and Aflac are increasing their 401(k) match for employees. Mr. Trump not only promised tax reform and delivered tax reform but every early indication is that the tax reform is doing what he said it would do.

Heaven knows what outrages the Trump presidency will bring our way in 2018—and maybe voters will wait until the midterm elections to vent—but right now Americans seem more focused on what he's achieved.



Consumers Need an Internet Bill of Rights

Government rules for the internet have been debated for nearly as long as the internet has existed, even before a professor coined the term “net neutrality” 15 years ago.

The internet has changed our lives and grown beyond what anyone could have imagined. And it’s done so, for the most part, with very few—but often changing—rules. Regulators under four different presidents have taken four different approaches. Courts have overturned regulatory decisions. Regulators have reversed their predecessors. And because the internet is so critical to everyone, it’s understandably confusing and a bit concerning when you hear the rules have recently changed, yet again.

It is time for Congress to end the debate once and for all, by writing new laws that govern the internet and protect consumers.

Until they do, I want to make clear what you can expect from AT&T.

AT&T is committed to an open internet. We don’t block websites. We don’t censor online content. And we don’t throttle, discriminate, or degrade network performance based on content. Period.

We have publicly committed to these principles for over 10 years. And we will continue to abide by them in providing our customers the open internet experience they have come to expect.

But the commitment of one company is not enough. Congressional action is needed to establish an “Internet Bill of Rights” that applies to all internet companies and guarantees neutrality, transparency, openness, non-discrimination and privacy protection for all internet users.

Legislation would not only ensure consumers’ rights are protected, but it would provide consistent rules of the road for all internet companies across all websites, content, devices and applications. In the very near future, technological advances like self-driving cars, remote surgery and augmented reality will demand even greater performance from the internet. Without predictable rules for how the internet works, it will be difficult to meet the demands of these new technology advances.

That’s why we intend to work with Congress, other internet companies and consumer groups in the coming months to push for an “Internet Bill of Rights” that permanently protects the open internet for all users and encourages continued investment for the next generation of internet innovation.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Randall Stephenson".

Randall Stephenson
AT&T Chairman and CEO

TECHNOLOGY: VERIZON MAKES PLANS FOR ITS \$4 BILLION TAX BREAK B4

BUSINESS & FINANCE

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Wednesday, January 24, 2018 | B1

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JPMorgan to Spread Out Windfall

Bank plans to invest \$20 billion from tax law, seeks to expand growth across its businesses

BY EMILY GLAZER

JPMorgan Chase & Co. is unrolling a \$20 billion, five-year investment across its businesses based on benefits from recent tax-law changes, a softer regulatory environment and its overall growth.

The largest U.S. bank by assets plans to open as many as 400 branches in new markets across the U.S., expand its home lending to lower-income consumers and boost wages for some retail-banking employees, among other changes, Chief Executive James Dimon said in an

interview.

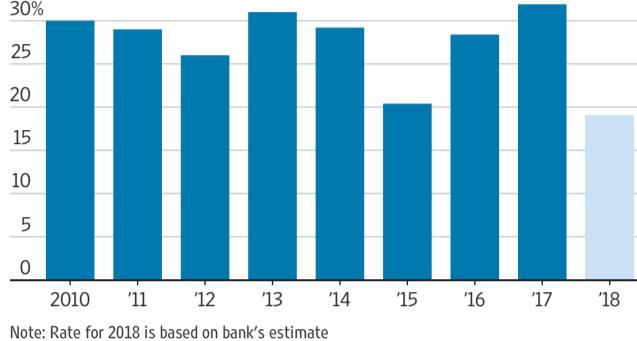
JPMorgan is one of many large companies passing on to its employees or clients some of the windfall of billions of dollars in expected additional profit from the tax-code overhaul enacted late last year. The bank's effective tax rate will be about 19% this year and 20% over the near term, down from 35% previously, finance chief Marianne Lake said during an earnings call earlier in January.

Mr. Dimon said during the same call that the bank could have roughly \$3.6 billion in additional net income in 2018 as a result of the tax overhaul.

JPMorgan took a one-time, \$2.4 billion charge in the fourth quarter due to the tax changes. Ms. Lake and Mr. Dimon spoke at length about future benefits and hinted at

Big Bucks

Annual effective tax rate for JPMorgan



Note: Rate for 2018 is based on bank's estimate

Source: the company

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

some changes the bank was planning.

"In anticipation [of the tax overhaul], we asked our people: 'What can we do? What different things can we do to

help? What can we do to accelerate our growth?'" Mr. Dimon said of the planned new investments. "This is good for the business, good for employees, [good for] wages, skills, jobs."

JPMorgan's move to open hundreds of branches in new cities is at odds with some of its competitors, which have been closing locations in recent years. The bank has also been slimming down the number of branches in certain areas while boosting its digital and mobile banking options.

JPMorgan currently has about 5,130 branches in 23 states. Over the next five years, it plans to expand to 15 to 20 new markets and add 3,000 people, said Gordon Smith, head of consumer and community banking. That could include Washington, D.C., Boston and Philadelphia, among other cities.

A quarter of JPMorgan's branches are in lower-income communities. Mr. Smith said

Please see TAX page B2

The Man Behind A Bitcoin Uproar

BY PAUL VIGNA AND JIM OBERMAN

The drop was swift. Prices for bitcoin and dozens of other digital currencies on Jan. 8 fell sharply, lopping more than \$100 billion off their collective market value.

The globe-rattling move can be traced to one address: an apartment in a new residential building across the street from a local union headquarters in a gentrifying section of Long Island City, Queens.

It is the workplace of Brandon Chez, the 31-year-old computer programmer behind coinmarketcap.com, a website that is a top source for data on bitcoin and hundreds of other cryptocurrencies. Mr. Chez's site, which went live in 2013, has become one of the most heavily trafficked websites in the world.

Competition is heating up. On Thursday, [Interncontinental Exchange Inc.](https://interncontinentalexchange.com), the owner of the New York Stock Exchange, announced a partnership to launch a bitcoin data feed for Wall Street banks and traders. Independent sites in-

\$100B

Collective loss in market value of cryptocurrencies after change

cluding Onchainfx.com have also popped up.

Meanwhile, Mr. Chez's site is wielding unexpected impact. On Jan. 7, coinmarketcap.com decided to remove trading activity from South Korean exchanges from its price-quote algorithms. The reason: Prices there were significantly and persistently higher than in other countries. To some, it seemed the Korean trades were artificially inflating the price of bitcoin.

Without the South Korean bids and offers embedded in the CoinMarketCap listings, prices on the site fell precipitously. The price of the cryptocurrency XRP, for example, went from about \$3.40 to \$2.60 in one sharp move, a 24% drop.

Yet little is known about how the site operates. Because Mr. Chez initially didn't communicate the change, few, if any, outside the site knew why it was happening. Traders tried to help each other on message boards like Reddit and social media. Many were angry.

"This decision is really head Please see COIN page B7

No Victory Celebrations These Days at Gatorade



ALL WET: The Los Angeles Dodgers savor a walk-off win with traditional Gatorade shower. The PepsiCo beverage has been losing ground as consumers drink record amounts of bottled water and spend more on enhanced waters, teas and energy drinks. U.S. sales slipped 0.5% to \$5.9 billion in 2017, the first drop since 2012. B3

Weinstein Co. Enters Exclusive Sales Talks

BY BEN FRITZ

Weinstein Co.'s owners have entered exclusive negotiations to sell the embattled studio to a group led by businesswoman Maria Contreras-Sweet for a little more than \$500 million, people close to the talks said.

The owners of the studio behind "The King's Speech" and "Django Unchained" have agreed to a two-week exclusivity period through the end

of next week with Ms. Contreras-Sweet's team, two of the people said.

Her offer is a little less than \$300 million in cash plus the assumption of \$225 million of debt, a person with knowledge of the offer said.

In addition, she has agreed to fund the company with \$175 million of cash and seek a line of credit.

The would-be buyers also intend to set aside an undisclosed amount of money in a payment fund for victims

of alleged sexual harassment and assault by former co-Chairman Harvey Weinstein.

That money would be for any valid claims not covered by the studio's insurance, one of the knowledgeable people said.

The talks could fall apart before a deal is reached.

The public disclosure of allegations against Mr. Weinstein led to the near-collapse of his eponymous studio and the current sale process. Mr.

Weinstein has apologized for his past behavior with colleagues but denied allegations of nonconsensual sex.

Ms. Contreras-Sweet's backers include Ron Burkle's Yucaipa Capital and investment firm Lantern Capital, the person with knowledge of her offer said.

Weinstein Co. shareholders are hoping to reach an agreement with Ms. Contreras-Sweet in part because hers is the only leading bid that

would keep Weinstein Co. out of bankruptcy court. Other bidders would want to buy assets out of bankruptcy to protect themselves from liability related to Mr. Weinstein's alleged misconduct, said another person with knowledge of the sale process.

Other bidders have included Miramax, the studio formerly led by Harvey Weinstein and his brother Bob, and its owner Bein Media Group;

Please see STUDIO page B2

HEARD ON THE STREET | By Stephen Wilmot

A Path Ahead for Disney-Fox



The sky isn't falling in on Fox's big European deal.

The U.K.

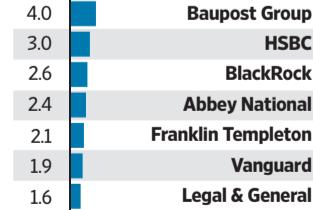
antitrust body's provisional move to block 21st Century Fox's \$15.5 billion bid for control of Sky on grounds of media plurality is an adroit one. It capitalizes politically on British antipathy for Rupert Murdoch, the octogenarian media mogul who controls 21st Century Fox as well as various U.K. newspapers (and The Wall Street Journal) through separately listed News Corp. Yet it also indicates a way forward that won't cost 21st Century Fox or European pay-TV giant Sky anything.

Mr. Murdoch had charted the course by agreeing in December to sell parts of

21st Century Fox, including its 39% stake in Sky, to Walt Disney. The antitrust ruling

Public Interest

Sky's top 10 shareholders



Source: FactSet

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

builds on this by putting media plurality, rather than "broadcasting standards"—the other yardstick by which the U.K. government had asked the regulator to judge the deal—at the center of the action.

Damning their U.K. broadcasting standards would have been a continuing prob-

lem for both Fox and Sky. However, media-plurality concerns fall away if Disney, which has no position in U.K. news, proves to be the one buying Sky.

The timing is problematic, as the Disney-Fox deal is likely to complete after the Fox-Sky one.

But the detail of the U.K. ruling identifies solutions. For example, there could be an "event-based sunset clause," whereby restrictions on the Sky takeover would fall away if the Disney-Fox deal completes on the terms proposed, or the sale of assets to Disney could be made a condition of the Sky takeover.

Sky shares rose 2.3% on Tuesday. The market has seen behind the headlines to what this really is: a way for everyone to save face.

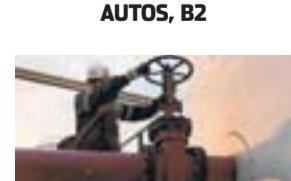
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TESLA SETS \$650 BILLION GOAL FOR MUSK

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Twitter Loses Noto To Online Lender SoFi

BY PETER RUDGEAIR AND GEORGIA WELLS

Twitter Inc. operating chief Anthony Noto is leaving to become head of online lender Social Finance Inc., dealing a blow to Twitter's strategy for growth and raising questions about who will run day-to-day operations at the company.

Mr. Noto will take the top spot at SoFi on March 1. At that time, board member Tom Hutton, who has been serving as interim CEO since SoFi co-founder Mike Cagney resigned from the financial-technology startup in September, will become nonexecutive chairman.

Mr. Noto's departure will leave a void at Twitter. Its chief, Jack Dorsey splits his time between the social-media company and Square Inc., the payments company he founded. The Wall Street Journal reported on Saturday that Mr. Noto and SoFi were in discussions about the CEO job.

Mr. Noto, already known in

Silicon Valley from his days as a Wall Street banker, elevated his profile there after joining Twitter as its financial chief in 2014. He took on increasing responsibility, including heading Twitter's video efforts and assuming the role of operating chief in November 2016. He later shed his finance duties to concentrate on running the business.

Many current and former Twitter employees, drawn to his vision of making a Twitter a significant operator in streaming video, said they had hoped Mr. Noto would one day become CEO.

Mr. Noto departure comes at a critical time for Twitter. Its shares have risen about 30% in the past three months after Twitter said it could report its first-ever quarterly profit. The effort, though, could stall if Twitter fails to make progress in expanding its user base, and Mr. Noto was seen as instrumental to those efforts.

Twitter shares fell 2.4% to

Please see NOTO page B4

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TAX

Continued from the prior page each of such branches supports about 6,000 families and about 450 small businesses.

"The improved regulatory environment has [helped] open this opportunity for us," Mr. Smith said. "Once you open a branch, you're helping customers to get mortgages, helping customers to get credit cards, helping small businesses to be able to get business loans, helping commercial bank customers to be able to grow their businesses."

The growth in branches is also connected to the bank's plans to boost small-business lending by nearly 20%, or \$4 billion, hiring 500 new bankers

over three years, he said. It plans to open offices in Charleston, S.C., and Bethesda, Md., in 2018 and is evaluating other locations.

JPMorgan also plans to hire 500 new mortgage employees to expand home lending in low- and moderate-income communities to \$50 billion over the next five years. The bank lent an average of \$7.7 billion annually to such communities from 2015 to 2017.

Mr. Smith said the \$50 billion is equivalent to about 250,000 mortgages in lower-income communities. JPMorgan is also boosting the amount of certain homeownership grants and expanding its program to be available across the country.

Messrs. Dimon and Smith added that changes in Federal Housing Administration rules could lead to further growth in that type of lending. Since the financial crisis, JPMorgan has slimmed its mortgage business and worked with higher-end borrowers.

Mr. Dimon wrote in his 2017 annual shareholder letter that FHA overhaul "can bring banks

back and expand access to credit."

Meanwhile, some of the bank's planned investments will directly benefit employees.

JPMorgan said it would

boost wages for 22,000 lower-paid, full- and part-time U.S. employees largely in branches and customer-service centers.

Wages will increase to between \$15 to \$18 an hour, starting Feb. 25, from \$12 to \$16.50. This is the second time the bank has boosted wages in the past two years; the most recent raise follows a number of large banks' increases announced in December.

JPMorgan is also giving eligible lower-paid employees an annual award of \$750 later in January, which it has done in prior years.

Bank of America Corp. and U.S. Bancorp, among other large companies in other sectors, previously announced

\$1,000 one-time bonuses to many employees.

For employees making less than \$60,000, JPMorgan will reduce medical-plan deductibles by \$750 a year.

The bank also plans to boost its philanthropic giving by 40% to \$1.75 billion over five years, aiming to drive economic growth in local communities.

ANDREW HARTRIDGE/BLOOMBERG NEWS

JPMorgan's James Dimon

Nancy Mucciarone, a former associate director at Initiative, claims Justin Whitehead, a media manager at Dr Pepper, propositioned her sexually, and after she turned down his advances, she alleges, he forcibly kissed and groped her.

Defendants include Initiative, Dr Pepper and Mr. Whitehead. Ms. Mucciarone is seeking unspecified damages.

Ms. Mucciarone claims her work environment became hostile after senior executives at Initiative discovered she was preparing to take legal action.

She claims she was advised by a manager to shift to a different client account.

A Dr Pepper spokesman said that after the company was notified, it "took immediate action, and that employee was terminated." Mr. Whitehead couldn't be reached for comment.

Amy Armstrong, the U.S. chief executive of Initiative, said the firm stands by its actions and is committed to a safe workplace.

"When our employee reported inappropriate behavior by an employee of a client to our HR department, we immediately took action by

providing all information to our client who swiftly terminated this person," she said.

Ms. Armstrong said the company offered Ms. Mucciarone the chance to stay on the account or move to a comparable assignment but "she declined all offers and quit."

The suit brings a second controversy to an IPG-owned agency. Last month a top executive, Joe Alexander, left the creative shop Martin Agency over alleged sexual misconduct.

Mr. Alexander denied wrongdoing. IPG defended its handling of the situation.

IPG also is named as a defendant in Ms. Mucciarone's suit. A spokesman said the company has been clear that when actions occur that run counter to its values, it takes swift action.

"We're pleased to see the leadership team at Initiative

did exactly that in response to this very unfortunate incident," the spokesman said.

The lawsuit claims that at a happy-hour event in New York in August, Mr. Whitehead "made sexual overtures" to Ms. Mucciarone, which she rejected, and later pulled her shirt open, groped her breast and grabbed her buttocks.

Ms. Mucciarone quickly told Initiative managers at the bar about the assault, according to the suit. "They minimized it and advised her not to go to HR right away," given how important the Dr Pepper account was to the agency, the suit says. Ms. Mucciarone informed Initiative's human-resources department anyway, according to the suit.

Initiative said in a statement that it offered to move Ms. Mucciarone away from the Dr Pepper account in the belief that she wanted a new assignment.

management, which directed him to attend a mandatory "Respect in the Workplace" training session. Initiative said that manager was terminated for unrelated issues on Oct. 13.

The suit claims senior Initiative executives retaliated against Ms. Mucciarone by ratcheting up criticism of her and advising her to move to another team within the agency or another IPG firm.

Ms. Mucciarone, who according to the suit had only ever worked on the Dr Pepper team during her time at Initiative, left the company shortly thereafter, feeling the agency had put her in an "intolerable situation," the suit said.

In a statement, Initiative said that it offered to move Ms. Mucciarone away from the Dr Pepper account in the belief that she wanted a new assignment.

BUSINESS NEWS

Fox-Sky Deal Runs Into Trouble in U.K.

Antitrust regulators say remedial actions would still make a transaction possible

BY STU WOO
AND BEN DUMMETT

British antitrust regulators said that 21st Century Fox's proposed \$16 billion bid to consolidate ownership of U.K. pay-TV giant Sky PLC would give the Murdoch family too much influence in the British media—but they kept the door open to remedial actions that would still make a deal possible.

The preliminary finding comes after Rupert Murdoch in December sealed a separate agreement to sell a chunk of Fox assets, including its 39% stake in Sky, to Walt Disney Co. for \$52 billion. That has made regulatory scrutiny of the Fox-Sky transaction in the U.K. an important part of a much bigger, globe-spanning deal.

The determination, by Britain's Competition and Markets Authority, poses the latest hurdle in Mr. Murdoch's years-long efforts to buy the 61% of the broadcaster that his media empire doesn't already own.

The Road Ahead

Rupert Murdoch's Fox is attempting to buy all of U.K. broadcaster Sky, as Disney tries to buy a big chunk of Fox.

Dec. 9, 2016

Fox makes bid for 61% of Sky it doesn't already own



Owes 39%



Offers to buy 61%

What's next?

1 Fox could walk away

Dec. 14, 2017

Walt Disney Co. agrees to buy 21st Century Fox assets, including 39% Sky stake



2 U.K. could reject the deal



Jan. 23, 2018

British regulators say Fox ownership of all of Sky isn't in public interest, but leave door open for remedial moves.

3 U.K. could approve, contingent on remedial action

Source: staff reports

Sky investors were encouraged, however, that the regulator detailed options that could allow a deal to go through. The CMA will make a final recommendation in May. It will then fall to the British government to make a decision.

The regulator also said Tuesday that the deal passed its other test—whether Fox was committed to British broadcasting standards. Sky shares rose more than 2% in London trading to just slightly below Fox's offer of £10.75 (\$15.04) a share.

In a statement, Fox said that it was "disappointed by the CMA's provisional find-

ings. We will continue to engage with the CMA ahead of the publication of the final report in May."

Technically, the CMA's stance shouldn't affect the terms of the Disney-Fox deal, since Disney has agreed to buy only Fox's existing stake in Sky. Disney considers Sky one of the jewels of the Fox assets—a way to expand its international footprint and gain a direct relationship with millions more consumers, both key strategic goals for Disney chief Robert Iger.

Should the government ultimately block the Fox-Sky deal, or if Fox walks away instead of agreeing to remedies, Disney

would then have to decide whether to initiate a fresh bid for the rest of Sky, to take 100% control.

That assumes the Disney-Fox transaction is approved—a separate regulatory review that will play out in the U.S. and Europe perhaps over more than a year.

Disney's chief financial officer, Christine McCarthy, in December said the Sky transaction would be fully managed by Fox until Disney's purchase is completed.

The British regulator suggested Tuesday it was more open to 100% ownership of Sky by Disney than full control by Fox. If Disney suc-

ceeded in its bid for the Fox assets, it would "significantly weaken" the link between the Murdoch family and Sky, the regulator stated. It said the Disney deal to buy the Fox assets would face its own regulatory review.

The issue at hand is that Sky, a satellite-TV and cable provider, also runs its own news channel, Sky News. Regulators said Tuesday if Fox had complete ownership of Sky, that would give the Murdoch family "greater influence over public opinion and the political agenda through Sky News, and would add to the...already significant influence over public opinion and the political agenda through its control of the News Corp titles."

The Murdoch family is a big shareholder in both 21st Century Fox and News Corp, which publishes widely read U.K. newspapers, including the Times of London, the Sunday Times and the Sun tabloid. News Corp also owns The Wall Street Journal.

The regulator listed possible remedies that could ease its concerns about media concentration. These include spinning off Sky News. Sky, which had said it might close the business anyway, declined to

comment Tuesday.

Another option floated by regulators was allowing Fox to create a board of mostly independent members to oversee Sky News. That arrangement could fall away should Disney clinch its deal with Fox and take control of Sky. Such an



Rupert Murdoch has tried for years to buy the 61% of Sky that his company doesn't own.

oversight board would offer Fox a relatively simple way of alleviating the CMA's concerns as it awaits approval on the Disney deal. Still, the regulator said it was concerned about the effectiveness of this condition.

The British regulators will allow Fox and groups that support and oppose the deal to respond to its preliminary recommendations.

They are scheduled to deliver final recommendations in May to the U.K. culture secretary, who can decide to approve the deal outright, approve it with conditions or reject it.

Analysts had expected full-year adjusted earnings per share of \$7.87 on revenue of \$80.7 billion.

A J&J spokesman said the company was "disappointed" in the patent ruling.

Pfizer has sued J&J alleging anticompetitive behavior to protect Remicade from competition from Pfizer's biosimilar, known as Inflectra.

A Pfizer spokesman praised the patent ruling, but said "J&J continues to use their scheme of exclusionary contracts to maintain Remicade's monopoly position."

J&J Posts Loss on Tax Charge; Patent Ruling Stings

BY JONATHAN D. ROCKOFF
AND ALLISON PRANG

Johnson & Johnson sales rose in the fourth quarter, but the company reported a loss after taking a \$13.6 billion charge as a result of the new U.S. tax law.

J&J expects the new law to lower its effective tax rate by 1.5 to 2.5 percentage points from the current rate of 17.2%.

Analysts said the positive impact probably figured in the company's better-than-expected outlook for this year.

Also on Tuesday, a federal

appeals court upheld a decision from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office invalidating a patent protecting arthritis therapy Remicade, J&J's top-selling product. If J&J had won, the company could have sought compensation from rivals such as Pfizer Inc. for sales lost to biosimilar versions of Remicade.

The news helped send J&J shares down 4.3% to \$141.83.

New Brunswick, N.J.-based J&J is the latest company to post a charge as a result of the new tax law's levy on earnings made abroad, part

of the overhaul's efforts to shift to a territorial system of taxation.

J&J has \$16 billion in foreign earnings it has held overseas to avoid paying taxes under the old 35% corporate tax rate. The new law will charge companies a one-time tax of 15.5% on overseas profits held in cash and liquid assets.

Chief Executive Alex Gorsky praised the tax changes for improving the competitiveness of U.S. companies. He said the law will prompt J&J to increase investment, "with the intent to have [the invest-

ment] substantially made in the U.S."

For the fourth quarter, J&J swung to a loss of \$10.71 billion, or \$3.99 a share, compared with a profit of \$3.81 billion, or \$1.38 a share, in the year-earlier period, largely because of the tax-law charge.

Excluding special items such as the tax provision, J&J's profit rose 9.5% to \$4.78 billion, or \$1.74 a share. Sales rose 12% to \$20.2 billion.

The results were driven by sales in the pharmaceuticals business, which rose 18% to \$9.7 billion. Sales of J&J's can-

cer drugs had some of the biggest gains.

Global sales of multiple-myeloma treatment Darzalex rose 86% in the quarter to \$371 million—making the drug a so-called blockbuster, with annual sales over \$1 billion.

But sales of Remicade fell 10% in the quarter to \$1.5 billion as the company offered heavy discounts to compete with lower-priced biosimilars.

For 2018, J&J said it expects sales between \$80.6 billion and \$81.4 billion and adjusted earnings per share between \$8 and \$8.20.

PepsiCo Tries to Boost Gatorade's Faltering Sales

BY CARA LOMBARDO

PepsiCo Inc.'s Gatorade, a sideline staple for fatigued athletes that has long dominated the sports-drink market, needs a pick-me-up of its own.

Known for neon-colored, sugar-loaded flavors such as "Arctic Blitz," Gatorade has been losing ground as consumers gulp record amounts of bottled water and spend more on enhanced waters, teas and energy drinks.

Gatorade sales in the U.S. slipped 0.5% to \$5.9 billion in 2017, marking the beverage's first decline since 2012, according to research firm Euromonitor International. The drink still commands about three-quarters of the U.S. sports-drink market, according to Euromonitor, though its share slipped last year.

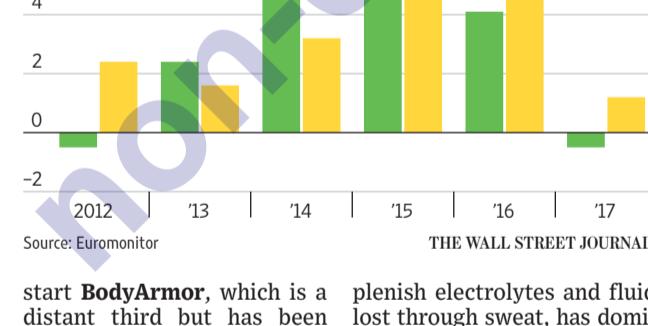
"It's definitely been a challenging year for sports drinks," said Howard Telford, head of Euromonitor's soft-drinks research. And with consumers favoring healthier-seeming options, he said, "I'm not sure whether Gatorade would be the first thing they'd reach for."

Gatorade Organic 'might've been too little, too late,' an analyst said.

Fighting Fatigue

Gatorade sales fell last year, as the overall U.S. sports-drink market cooled.

Change from previous year



start BodyArmor, which is a distant third but has been gaining market share.

PepsiCo said it isn't concerned. "While several competitors have entered the space, our relationship, consumption and connection to our core target, athletes, has simply never been stronger than it is today," the company said in a statement Tuesday.

PepsiCo Chief Executive Indra Nooyi tried to assure investors in October that the company was taking action to address the Gatorade sales decline, which she said was temporary and mainly due to a cooler-than-expected summer and slowed convenience-store sales.

"We're all over it," Ms. Nooyi said on the October call, without elaborating. Gatorade accounted for about 20% of the company's North American drink volume in the most recent quarter.

PepsiCo said in its statement Tuesday that the decline came after two years of "terrific" growth in the same quarter. "As we said then, this is a temporary issue and we have already taken action to improve our performance."

The company bought Gatorade in 2001 as part of its \$13.8 billion purchase of Quaker Oats Co. The drink, developed in 1965 by University of Florida researchers to re-

plenish electrolytes and fluid lost through sweat, has dominated the sports-drink market. Its closest rival, Coca-Cola's Powerade, has 18% of the market. Powerade sales last year were flat compared with 2016.

Over the years, PepsiCo has experimented with expanding Gatorade, with mixed results.

It released a lower-calorie version, G2, in 2007. In 2010, it rolled out the G Series, which included pregame and post-game formulations. It added protein bars, powders and energy chews.

Most recently, PepsiCo introduced an organic version of the drink. Gatorade Organic, made with organic cane sugar and free of artificial coloring, comes in bottles wrapped with plastic that conceal the drink's lack of color.

Retail sales of Gatorade Organic have totaled about \$20 million since the product's launch in late summer 2016, according to market research firm Nielsen. Sales of all Gatorade drinks amounted to \$7 billion over the same period.

Gatorade Organic is a "valiant" effort by PepsiCo to give sports drinks a healthier reputation, said Ali Dibadj, a consumer-goods analyst with Bernstein. But "it might've been too little, too late. You clearly see the growth rate and market share has stalled."

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Verizon to Share Tax Savings With Staff

Windfall of as much as \$4 billion also to go toward paying down carrier's hefty debt

BY RYAN KNUTSON
AND AUSTEN HUFFORD

The new tax law will put as much as \$4 billion extra cash in **Verizon Communications** Inc.'s pocket this year.

The telecommunications company said it would use the funds to pay down some of its \$117 billion debt, donate \$200 million to \$300 million to its charity, and give almost all of its 155,000 employees 50 shares of Verizon stock. The shares, which currently trade around \$53, will be priced Feb. 1 and vest over two years. Verizon said the employee stock award is worth about \$380 million, or about \$2,500 per employee.

The windfall comes as Verizon's business is humming. On Tuesday, the carrier said it had turned around two years of declining revenue in its wireless



Verizon turned around two years of declining revenue in its wireless unit. A store in Brea, Calif.

unit, increasing revenue by 1.7% from a year earlier to \$23.8 billion. Verizon also added 1.2 million postpaid connections, 431,000 of which were phones.

Verizon said the tax law wouldn't result in increased network spending because the company has been disciplined about its deployment strategy.

"It's very inconsistent that just because tax reform comes through, we are all of a sudden going to draw the line at a different place or lose that discipline," Verizon Chief Executive Lowell McAdam said on a call with analysts. "What tax reform does do is gives us great flexibility that once we prove to ourselves that we can get a reasonable return on invested capital, we can accelerate very rapidly."

One thing Mr. McAdam said Verizon won't spend money on now: a major acquisition. Instead, Verizon wants to remain neutral amid disruption in the media space, which will allow it to strike deals with many content companies.

Disney Employees To Receive Bonuses

Walt Disney Co. is the latest major company to give its employees \$1,000 bonuses following the federal cut in corporate taxes.

The entertainment company said Tuesday it will give the bonuses to nearly all of its nonexecutive employees in the U.S., more than 125,000 people. The company also said it is making an initial \$50 million investment into a tuition-reimbursement program for about 88,000 hourly employees and will invest as much as \$25 million annually in the future.

A Disney spokeswoman confirmed the new programs, with a total cost of \$175 million this year, are a response to the federal tax changes.

The bonuses and educational benefits also come as Disney is awaiting government approval for its agreement to purchase most of the assets of **21st Century Fox** Inc.

"I have always believed that education is the key to opportunity," Disney Chief Executive Robert Iger said.

The \$1,000 cash bonus will be paid in two installments, in March and again in September, to nonexecutive employees in the U.S. who have worked at Disney since Jan. 1.

—Ben Fritz

profit of \$18.67 billion, or \$4.56 a share, compared with a profit of \$4.5 billion, or \$1.10 a share, a year ago.

The boost was a result of a one-time \$16.8 billion reduction of its deferred tax liabilities.

Apple Sets Smart Speaker's Debut

BY TRIPP MICKLE

Apple Inc. will start selling its voice-activated speaker HomePod in stores Feb. 9, after a launch delay that cost the company sales during the critical holiday shopping season.

The tech giant, in announcing the sales date Tuesday, didn't explain why the product missed a promised December ship date. The HomePod can be preordered online beginning Friday.

Market leaders **Amazon.com** Inc. and **Alphabet** Inc. continued to sell Echo and Google Home devices during the holidays, while Apple worked on a rival product it said wasn't ready for sale.

Amazon was the first major tech company to enter the smart-speaker market in late

2014, opening a wide lead by selling more than 20 million Echos even before tallying sales for the recent Christmas season. Its hockey puck-size Echo Dot is estimated to account for more than half of Amazon's speaker unit sales, largely because of its lower price, which dropped to \$30 during the holidays before rising to \$50.

The smart-speaker shipments world-wide are expected to rise more than 50% this year to 56 million units, according to the market researcher Canalys. The U.S. will account for more than half of those sales, it said.

At \$349, the HomePod costs considerably more than Amazon's latest Echo and a Google Home, whose list prices are \$100 and \$129, respectively.

Apple has tried to differentiate its speaker by emphasizing sound quality, particularly when playing music, over the device's ability to perform tasks.

Voice-activated speakers have moved to the forefront in a battle over what some technology analysts see as the future of computing. Virtual assistants such as Apple's Siri, Amazon's Alexa, Microsoft Corp.'s Cortana and Google Assistant are expected to be embedded in more than four billion consumer devices by the end of 2018, allowing people to perform simple computing tasks by voice such as searching for information or turning off lights, according to the research firm IHS Markit.

Apple's Siri has a much wider presence by virtue of being featured on more than a billion iPhones and iPads. However, Amazon and Google are aiming to catch up by cutting deals to put their assistants into such products as Toyota Motor Corp. vehicles and Sony Corp. televisions. They also offer greater functionality; Amazon's Alexa, for example, can perform thousands of commands compared with hundreds by Siri.

The HomePod was the latest in a series of Apple products that faced delayed. The AirPods earbuds missed their promised ship date last year, and the Apple Watch, promised in early 2015, arrived late in April of that year.

Apple said the HomePod initially will be available in the U.S., U.K. and Australia, and will arrive in France and Germany this spring.



A HomePod prototype on display during a conference last year.

Snapchat to Enable Wider Sharing

BY GEORGIA WELLS

Snapchat, the social-media app distinctive for its intimacy in an era of personal broadcasting, is moving beyond its so-called walled garden.

As of Tuesday, parent firm **Snap** Inc. said, some Snapchat users will be able to take videos and other content they encounter within the app and share it outside the walls, such as through Facebook, Twitter, email and text messaging.

Snap said the intent is to foster greater awareness of Snapchat for people who aren't already users. The move comes

against a backdrop of investor concern about Snap's daily-user growth, which fell to 2.9% in three months ended Sept. 30, compared with 17% in early 2016.

The new feature is notable because it shows Snap's willingness to evolve beyond the basis for the app's early popularity, including ephemerality, one-on-one messaging and closed social groups.

Traces of this latest move were evident in 2014, when Snap started curating content submitted by users and shared it more broadly on the app. This is the first time, however,

that Snap has made content shareable outside the app.

Snap follows other social-media apps that have made it easier to share viral content outside their walls. In 2011, **Twitter** Inc. allowed tweets to be embedded on other websites. **Facebook** Inc. did the same with its posts in 2013.

Only users in some countries where Snap has rolled out a redesigned version of Snapchat, such as Australia and Canada, will be able to immediately share beyond its walls. The new version is set to reach other users, including in the U.S., over the next few weeks.

NOTO

Continued from page B1
\$22.75 on Tuesday.

"Noto has been the most visible and consistent articulator of Twitter's evolving corporate strategy," Wells Fargo analyst Peter Stabler wrote in a research note.

Twitter doesn't plan to immediately name a new operating chief, and it is evaluating whether to fill the role down the road, according to a person familiar with the matter. Mr. Noto's responsibilities will fall to current members of Twitter's executive team, the company said in a statement.

SoFi, founded in 2011, is one of the best financed and most ambitious financial-technology startups. The company has raised nearly \$2 billion to expand beyond its original business—refinancing student loans for U.S. borrowers—and push into foreign markets and new businesses such as mortgages, life insurance, automated investment accounts and asset management. SoFi extended \$3.5 billion in loans in the third quarter of last year, up 79% from the period of 2016, according to a letter to investors.

One of the first tasks for Mr. Noto will be to rebuild the executive team, which has been rocked by departures. In addition to Mr. Cagney, SoFi in the past year lost its chief financial officer, chief revenue officer and chief technology officer.

—Austen Hufford contributed to this article.

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THE PROPERTY REPORT

Landlords Embrace a Shared View

Big office owners are exploring deals with co-working firms as the business expands

By PETER GRANT

Co-working is coming of age.

Some of the world's largest landlords, facing weak growth in traditional office rents and occupancies, are investing heavily in what until recently was viewed as a niche office business that catered primarily to technology startups and millennials.

A venture of **Brookfield Asset Management** Inc. and **Onex Corp.** is negotiating to buy **IWG PLC**, which has a market capitalization of £2.48 billion (\$3.47 billion) and operates co-working facilities as well as more traditional offices for small and midsize businesses. On Saturday, the U.K.'s Takeover Panel extended the deadline for the venture to make an offer until Feb. 2. Brookfield declined to comment on the negotiations.

Meanwhile, **Blackstone Group** LP last year purchased the Office Group in a deal that valued the U.K.-based co-working provider at £500 million.

Blackstone, Brookfield and Houston-based **Hines** also are exploring a wide range of deals with new shared-space firms like WeWork Cos., **IWG**, **Industrious** and **Convene**.

The new workplace trend "is certainly something we're spending a lot of time focusing on in our office space business," said Rob Harper, head of U.S. asset management at Blackstone's real-estate group.

Co-working at its core is a



WeWork has seen strong demand for office spaces with hip designs and a buzzy vibe.

buildings that in the past didn't serve such tenants.

But now big companies are pressuring landlords for space with a hipper vibe, more amenities and shorter leases that allow easier expansions and contractions.

This will likely increase landlord costs for building out spaces. "If you want to attract and retain tenants, you've got to be a little bit more bling," said Jed Reagan, a Green Street analyst.

Also, because co-working generally uses less space per worker, occupancy likely will decline as big tenants begin to transition to more flexible spaces. If big tenants succeed in reducing lease lengths from the standard 10- or 15-year contracts to a few years, building owners are going to have a tougher time obtaining financing.

"If you're a landlord, you have to feel somewhat threatened," said Matt Kopsky, a REIT analyst at financial-services firm Edward Jones.

Landlords are responding with a variety of strategies. Some of the biggest players are buying co-working and flexible-space businesses, like Blackstone did with the Office Group and Brookfield might do with IWG.

Owners also are exploring a wide range of business deals with firms like WeWork and Industrious. In some cases, landlords will simply lease space to co-working businesses. In other cases, landlords are cutting management agreements with co-working companies similar to the kind of deals that hotel owners may cut with hotel brands like Hilton or Marriott.

—Eliot Brown contributed to this article.

PLOTS & PLOYS

MALLS

Gas Fill-Up Offered While Client Shops

As the competition for shoppers intensifies, a California mall is offering customers the perk of having gas delivered to their cars in the parking lot while they shop.

The Great Mall in Milpitas, Calif., recently joined with Booster Fuels, an app-based company that comes directly to cars at offices and retail parking spaces and refuels them.

Customers "could watch a movie at the mall, push a button, come back with a full tank and get on with more important things in life," said Frank Mycroft, chief executive officer of the app-based service. **Simon Property Group** Inc., which owns the Great Mall, didn't respond to requests to comment.

Booster Fuels said customers usually get their requests filled within an hour.

—Esther Fung

BANK OF AMERICA

Lender to Expand In Downtown L.A.

Bank of America Corp. has renewed its office lease in downtown Los Angeles and has taken more space as competition for office tenants heats up.

The third-largest U.S. bank by assets extended and expanded its anchor lease at Bank of America Plaza to 218,000 square feet from 163,000 square feet, according to Brookfield Properties, which owns the 55-story building. The lender will relocate its regional Merrill Lynch and U.S. Trust offices from other offices nearby.

—Esther Fung

Malls Plot a Course To Retailing Depot

By ESTHER FUNG

The outlook for shopping malls is terminal. As in transportation terminal.

Some retail landlords, in their quest for ways to boost foot traffic and grab customers' attention, are betting on the long corridors that take the masses to and from planes, trains and automobiles.

Drawing commuters out of transit hubs and into shopping areas can be a valuable proposition, real-estate observers said.

"There is much greater sophistication in the way retail property developers now think about this kind of thing," said Alan Penn, professor in architectural and urban computing at University College London.

Real-estate private-equity firm **Madison International Realty** is planning to redevelop Brooklyn's Atlantic Terminal Mall and Atlantic Center, huge properties that sit atop nine subway lines and a Long Island Rail Road stop and are a stone's throw from Barclays Center, home of the Brooklyn Nets.

Westfield World Trade Center is a gleaming white mall that opened in 2016 at a site where roughly 300,000 daily commuters from 13 subway and PATH trains converge in lower Manhattan. Downtown Miami's Brickell City Centre, a 9-acre mixed-use project, started opening stores in November 2016 in its 500,000-square-foot open-air shopping center located near a Metrorail station, a Metromover light rail station and a trolley stop.

"In the first visit, you want to make it easy for them, provide good signage," said Jacqueline Beckingham, global creative director at architecture firm Benoy. "But on the second visit, you want them to discover other things and explore other routes to take that aren't so obvious but more enjoyable and perhaps even faster."

For landlords, focusing on transportation is something of a departure.

Malls used to be modeled on the notion of luring in shoppers with anchor stores and then restricting the number of ways out, said Mr. Penn.

Later on, two-story malls were added to the mix.

Now, with open-air shopping centers in vogue, public-transit links are hot.

"It's the Holy Grail," said Ronald Dickerman, president of Madison International Realty. "You're at 50% to 75% to the goal line when you've got these patrons," he said of commuters.

Developers should be tasteful, he said, and aim for a happy medium between commuting and commerce.

"It can't be viewed as an inconvenience," said Mr. Dickerman. "It should be a graceful shopping experience."

Such projects already are common in busy cities in Asia and Europe, where exits from subway and rail platforms often spill into shopping centers, which then are linked to residential or office towers. In Hong Kong, Singapore and Japan, the basement level where the metro is located can be just as valuable as ground-floor retail space.

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A Prologis facility is seen in the Bronx, N.Y. REITs such as Prologis have reported solid results so far this earnings season.

Market Rally Skips REIT Shares

By PETER GRANT

exuberance on display on Wall Street.

"It's not that people now are looking closely at REITs and saying prospects are poor," Mr. Case said. "They're being entirely diverted. The tech stocks are taking up all of their attention."

In a new report, Nareit points to the similarities between today's market and the 1999 tech bubble, which led to the dot-com bust in 2000. That era was "a time like today when REITs had become overlooked and undervalued as the tech stock bubble inflated relentlessly," last week's Nareit report points out.

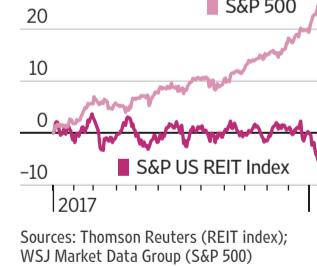
If Nareit is right, REITs would be a screaming buy about now, Mr. Case said. In 2000, the REIT index soared 25.9%, far outperforming the S&P, which fell 9%.

But not everyone agrees with Nareit's historical analysis. After all, the tech stocks leading the rally today are large-cap companies like Apple Inc. and Amazon.com Inc. Back in the late 1990s, the dot-com bubble involved startups with absurd valuations that flamed out and disappeared.

"I watched biotech stocks go up 10% to 20% a day," recalls Steve Sakwa, an analyst with Evercore ISI.

Missing Out

Real-estate investment trusts have underperformed the stock market.



Sources: Thomson Reuters (REIT index); WSJ Market Data Group (S&P 500)

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

"It seems like there's been a broad sell-off of defensive-type industries like real estate into other industries that will benefit more from rising rates, tax reform and faster growth in the economy," said Matt Kopsky, a REIT analyst at Edward Jones.

The outcome of the great REIT debate of 2018 will partly come down to the performance of the REITs in terms of occupancy, rents and income. Analysts point out that with a bull market in real estate now in its ninth year, headwinds are picking up in the form of new supply and declining rents.

Some sectors are getting hammered. Retail REITs, for example, have lagged behind because of the growing popularity of online shopping. Suburban office buildings have been hurt by the move of many businesses to downtown areas.

But REIT earnings season is starting this week and so far the initial reports are good. **Prologis**, an industrial REIT, on Tuesday reported that in the fourth quarter earnings were \$373 million, up from \$345 million during the period in 2016. The company's shares rose 3% to \$64.97 on the New York Stock Exchange on Tuesday.



The World Trade Center in New York sees 300,000 daily commuters.

BIGGEST 1,000 STOCKS

How to Read the Stock Tables The following explanations apply to NYSE, NYSE Arca, NYSE American and Nasdaq Stock Market listed securities. Prices are composite quotations that include primary market trades as well as trades reported by Nasdaq BX (formerly Boston), Chicago Stock Exchange, Cboe, NYSE National and Nasdaq ISE. The list comprises the 1,000 largest companies based on market capitalization.

Underlined quotations are those stocks with large changes in volume compared with the issue's average trading volume.

Boldfaced quotations highlight those issues whose price changed by 5% or more from their previous closing price was \$2 or higher.

Wall Street Journal stock tables reflect composite regular trading as of 4 p.m. and changes in the closing prices from 4 p.m. the previous day.

Tuesday, January 23, 2018

	Stock	Sym	Close	Net Chg	Stock	Sym	Close	Net Chg	Stock	Sym	Close	Net Chg	Stock	Sym	Close	Net Chg				
	Aon	AON	137.42	1.44	Brown&Brown	BFRG	68.62	-0.98	Coca-Cola	KO	47.45	0.07	Express-Scripts	ESRX	81.15	0.03	Huawei	HUWV	137.32	-0.28
	Apache	APAC	47.77	-0.11	Brown-Forman	BFB	68.62	-0.98	Coca-Cola Euro	KOF	76.56	-0.28	ExxonMobil	XOM	88.30	-0.05	IBM	IBM	137.32	-0.28
	AppliRthmtn	API	42.34	0.95	BuckeyePtrs	BPL	56.30	0.33	Cognizant	CNSX	69.62	-0.57	FICO	FIVV	142.59	-1.52	Intel	INTC	137.32	-0.28
	Apple	AAPL	177.04	0.04	Bunge	BG	80.57	-1.54	Coherent	COHR	2025.16	-1.62	Facebook	FB	189.35	-3.98	Int'l Networks	INEN	142.59	-1.52
	AppMaterials	AMAT	57.79	-0.33	CA	CA	34.73	0.05	Corning	CGN	69.62	-0.57	Fastenal	FAST	54.41	0.08	Fastenal	FAST	142.59	-1.52
	AppT	APTV	92.83	-0.23	CB	CBD	22.63	-0.62	CogniTek	CTSH	78.26	-0.30	FirstSet	FST	197.78	-1.72	Federal Realty	FRT	124.74	-0.37
	Appvista	APPV	105.38	-1.31	CB	CBD	22.63	-0.62	ColgatePalm	CL	42.44	-0.45	Facebook	FB	189.35	-3.98	FirstNet	FNT	124.74	-0.37
	ApconPhilips	ADP	60.47	-0.20	CD	CD	17.05	-0.02	ConchoRscs	CXO	160.53	-0.22	FirstNet	FNT	124.74	-0.37	FirstNet	FNT	124.74	-0.37
	ConEd	ED	79.66	1.13	CE	CE	113	-0.01	ConEd	ED	79.66	1.13	FirstNet	FNT	124.74	-0.37	FirstNet	FNT	124.74	-0.37
	ConstBrands	CLZ	220.78	1.46	CF	CF	146.20	-0.52	ConExpo	CPG	38.82	0.15	FirstNet	FNT	124.74	-0.37	FirstNet	FNT	124.74	-0.37
	ContinentalRscs	CBT	57.04	0.22	CG	CG	16.20	-0.02	ConExpo	CPG	38.82	0.15	FirstNet	FNT	124.74	-0.37	FirstNet	FNT	124.74	-0.37
	Cooper	COO	238.70	-2.61	CH	CH	16.20	-0.02	ConExpo	CPG	38.82	0.15	FirstNet	FNT	124.74	-0.37	FirstNet	FNT	124.74	-0.37
	Copart	CPRT	44.99	-0.43	CI	CI	14.95	-0.02	ConExpo	CPG	38.82	0.15	FirstNet	FNT	124.74	-0.37	FirstNet	FNT	124.74	-0.37
	Corning	GLW	350.22	-8.27	CGI	CGI	55.19	-1.12	ConExpo	CPG	38.82	0.15	FirstNet	FNT	124.74	-0.37	FirstNet	FNT	124.74	-0.37
	Costco	COST	194.90	-0.53	CKK	CKK	10.95	-0.02	ConExpo	CPG	38.82	0.15	FirstNet	FNT	124.74	-0.37	FirstNet	FNT	124.74	-0.37
	Coty	COTY	20.77	-0.12	CIT	CIT	10.95	-0.02	ConExpo	CPG	38.82	0.15	FirstNet	FNT	124.74	-0.37	FirstNet	FNT	124.74	-0.37
	CreditCorp	CACC	359.00	-6.10	CIT	CIT	10.95	-0.02	ConExpo	CPG	38.82	0.15	FirstNet	FNT	124.74	-0.37	FirstNet	FNT	124.74	-0.37
	CreditAcceptance	CACX	359.00	-6.10	CIT	CIT	10.95	-0.02	ConExpo	CPG	38.82	0.15	FirstNet	FNT	124.74	-0.37	FirstNet	FNT	124.74	-0.37
	Cummins	CUMN	188.43	-1.15	CIT	CIT	10.95	-0.02	ConExpo	CPG	38.82	0.15	FirstNet	FNT	124.74	-0.37	FirstNet	FNT	124.74	-0.37

Stock	Sym	Close	Net Chg	Stock	Sym	Close	Net Chg	Stock	Sym	Close	Net Chg	Stock	Sym	Close	Net Chg	
Coca-Cola	KO	47.45	0.07	ExpeditorInt	EXPD	66.89	0.45	HuaweiPower	HNPV	26.32	-0.19	LionsGate	B	LGFB	33.14	-0.27
Coca-Cola Euro	KOF	76.56	-0.28	Express-Scripts	ESRX	81.15	-0.03	LiveNation	LYV	44.00	-0.54	Logitech	LOGI	121.46	-0.01	
Cognizant	CGNX	69.62	-0.57	ExtraSpace	EXR	86.15	-0.02	Lloyd'sBanking	LYG	4.13	-0.02	Loew's	LOGM	122.95	-3.35	
Coherency	COHR	2025.16	-1.62	ExxonMobil	XOM	88.30	-0.05	LockheedMartin	LMT	328.70	-0.30	Orix	IX	99.13	-1.21	
CoherenceTech	CTSH	78.26	-0.30	Facebook	FB	189.35	-3.98	Loews	LOW	107.11	-0.41	Oshkosh	OSK	94.09	-0.13	
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CoherenceTech	CTSH	78.														

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Futures Contracts

Metal & Petroleum Futures

	Contract	Open	High	Low	Settle	Chg	Open interest
Open	High	low	Low	Settle	Chg	interest	
Copper-High (CMX) -25,000 lbs.; \$ per lb.	3.1425	3.1425	3.1025	3.0895	-0.0880	216	
Jan	3.1425	3.1425	3.1025	3.0895	-0.0880	216	
March	3.1985	3.2125	3.1080	3.1110	-0.0875	146,442	
Gold (CMX) -100 troy oz.; \$ per troy oz.	1335.80	1335.90	1335.80	1335.70	4.80	185	
Jan	1335.80	1335.90	1335.80	1335.70	4.80	185	
Feb	1333.00	1341.50	1330.70	1336.70	4.80	226,529	
April	1338.40	1346.60	1335.80	1341.70	4.80	227,410	
June	1343.70	1351.60	1341.00	1346.90	4.80	57,626	
Aug	1348.80	1356.50	1347.10	1352.30	4.70	20,725	
Dec	1362.60	1367.70	1357.70	1363.20	4.30	28,017	
Palladium (NYM) -50 troy oz.; \$ per troy oz.	1086.90	1086.90	1086.90	1086.90	-8.05	3	
Jan	1091.95	1095.85	1082.00	1084.25	-8.05	35,244	
June	1084.90	1087.50	1074.85	1077.20	-7.55	3,066	
Sept	1076.30	1077.00	1071.50	1072.05	-7.55	310	
Platinum (NYM) -50 troy oz.; \$ per troy oz.	1005.30	1005.30	11.00	9			
Jan	1001.00	1013.30	993.50	1007.80	11.00	83,489	
Silver (CMX) -5,000 troy oz.; \$ per troy oz.	16.985	16.985	16.985	16.855	-0.076	15	
March	16.990	17.090	16.735	16.913	-0.076	139,819	
Crude Oil, Light Sweet (NYM) -1,000 bbls.; \$ per bbl.	63.88	64.88	63.70	64.47	0.90	633,247	
April	63.85	64.69	63.56	64.31	0.88	213,675	
May	63.58	64.41	63.37	64.09	0.86	167,947	
June	63.22	64.10	63.11	63.79	0.83	304,314	
Dec	60.83	61.53	60.73	61.30	0.63	247,943	
Dec'19	57.16	57.53	57.01	57.39	0.42	109,009	
NY Harbor ULSD (NYM) -42,000 gal.; \$ per gal.	2.0641	2.0985	2.0582	2.0861	.0292	62,960	
Feb	2.0628	2.0944	2.0559	2.0823	.0272	151,573	
Gasoline-NY RBOB (NYM) -42,000 gal.; \$ per gal.	1.8884	1.9150	1.8827	1.9087	.0286	47,616	
March	1.8884	1.9145	1.8834	1.9075	.0274	154,944	

Natural Gas (NYM)-10,000 MMBtu's; \$ per MMBtu.

Open	High	hilo	Low	Settle	Chg	Open interest
Feb	3.254	3.628	3.249	3.444	.220	89,791
March	2.949	3.129	2.944	3.039	.108	372,013
April	2.801	2.892	2.797	2.849	.057	183,341
May	2.796	2.869	2.794	2.837	.048	158,837
July	2.873	2.939	2.873	2.912	.046	84,463
Oct	2.865	2.928	2.865	2.901	.044	16,877

Agriculture Futures

Corn (CBT)-5,000 bu.; cents per bu.

Open	High	hilo	Low	Settle	Chg	Open interest
March	351.50	352.00	349.50	351.25	-.75	811,625
May	360.25	360.25	358.00	359.75	-.75	273,872
Oats (CBT)-5,000 bu.; cents per bu.	266.25	274.75	265.25	270.00	5.00	3,842
March	263.00	265.75	261.25	262.25	.50	2,122
Soybeans (CBT) -5,000 bu.; cents per bu.	98.75	99.75	98.25	100.00	.20	184,511
March	98.00	99.75	99.00	99.75	.20	184,511
Soybean Oil (CBT) -100 tons; \$ per ton.	337.70	340.00	334.30	339.60	1.00	166,020
March	340.90	342.80	337.40	342.50	.80	98,537
Rough Rice (CBT) -2,000 cwt.; \$ per cwt.	32.22	32.66	32.17	32.52	.36	233,654
May	32.40	32.86	32.37	32.72	.36	108,650
Wheat (CBT) -5,000 bu.; cents per bu.	1214.50	1230.00	1211.00	1220.00	2.00	7,573
May	1245.50	1253.50	1241.00	1245.50	1.50	1,060
Wheat (CBT) -5,000 bu.; cents per bu.	423.50	425.00	419.75	421.50	-.45	295,003
May	437.00	437.75	432.50	434.25	-.45	106,533
Wheat (CBT) -5,000 bu.; cents per bu.	427.25	428.50	422.00	423.25	-.55	166,384
May	441.75	442.50	436.00	437.25	-.55	66,740
Wheat (MPLS) -5,000 bu.; cents per bu.	606.75	608.25	594.25	604.50	-.25	33,877
May	616.00	617.75	614.50	614.75	-.15	14,233

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BANKRUPTCIES

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

In re: CHARMING CHARLIE HOLDINGS INC., et al. Chapter 11, Case No. 17-12906 (CSS) (Jointly Administered)

Related to Docket No. 299

NOTICE OF DEADLINES FOR THE FILING OF PROOF OF CLAIM, INCLUDING REQUESTS FOR PAYMENTS UNDER SECTION 503(b)(9) OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE

THE GENERAL BAR DATE IS FEBRUARY 19, 2018

THE GOVERNMENTAL BAR DATE IS JUNE 9, 2018

THE AMENDED SCHEDULES BAR DATE IS AS DEFINED HEREIN

THE REJECTION DAMAGES BAR DATE IS AS DEFINED HEREIN

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE OF THE FOLLOWING:

Deadline for Filing Proofs of Claim: On January 10, 2018, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware ("Court") entered an order [Dkt. No. 17-12906 (CSS)] establishing certain deadlines for the filing of proofs of claim, including requests for payment under section 503(b)(9) of the Bankruptcy Code, in the chapter 11 cases of the following debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the "Debtors"). DEBTOR, CASE NO.: Charming Charlie Holdings Inc., 17-12906; Charming Charlie Canada LLC, 17-12907; Charming Charlie International LLC, 17-12908; Charming Charlie LLC, 17-12909; Charming Charlie Manhattan LLC, 17-12910; Charming Charlie USA Inc., 17-12911; Posidone Partners CMS, Inc., 17-12912.

The Bar Dates. Pursuant to the Bar Date Order, all entities (except governmental units), including individuals, partnerships, estates, and trusts who have a claim or potential claim against the Debtors that arose before December 11, 2017 (the "Petition Date"), no matter how remote or contingent such right to payment or equitable remedy may be, including requests for payment under section 503(b)(9) of the Bankruptcy Code, MUST FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM on or before **February 19, 2018, at 5:00 p.m.**, prevailing Eastern Time (the "General Bar Date"). Governmental entities who have a claim or potential claim against the Debtors that arose before the Petition Date, no matter how remote or contingent such right to payment or equitable remedy may be, MUST FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM on or before **June 9, 2018, at 5:00 p.m.**, prevailing Eastern Time (the "Governmental Bar Date"). Entities who have a claim or potential claim against the Debtors based on any amendment to the Schedules of Creditors in Possession, including the Amended Schedules Bar Date, or otherwise, must file a proof of claim on or before the date specified in the Amended Schedules Bar Date.

ANY PERSON OR ENTITY WHO FAILS TO FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM, INCLUDING ANY REQUEST FOR PAYMENT UNDER SECTION 503(b)(9) OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE, ON OR BEFORE THE APPLICABLE BAR DATE MAY NOT BE TREATED AS A CREDITOR WITH RESPECT TO SUCH CLAIM FOR THE PURPOSES OF VOTING AND DISTRIBUTION ON ANY CHAPTER 11 PLAN.

Filing a Proof of Claim. Each proof of claim must (i) be written in English; (ii) include a claim amount denominated in United States dollars; (iii) clearly identify the Debtor against which the claim is asserted; (iv) conform substantially with the Proof of Claim Form provided by the Debtors or Official Form 101; (v) be signed by the claimant or by an authorized agent or legal representative of the claimant; and (vi) include as attachments any and all supporting documentation on which the claim is based. Please note that a proof of claim must state a claim against only one Debtor and clearly indicate the specific Debtor against whom the claim is asserted. To the extent more than one Debtor is listed on the proof of claim, a proof of claim is treated as if filed only against the first-listed Debtor, or if a proof of claim is otherwise filed without identifying a specific Debtor, the proof of claim may be deemed as filed only against Charming Charlie Holdings Inc.

Section 503(b)(9) Requests for Payment. Any proof of claim and/or priority asserting a claim arising under section 503(b)(9) of the Bankruptcy Code must also (i) include the value of the goods delivered to and received by the Debtors in the 20 days before the Petition Date; (ii) attach any documentation identifying the particular invoices for which such 503(b)(9) claim is being asserted; and (iii) attach documentation of any reclamation demand made to the Debtors under section 546(c) of the Bankruptcy Code (if applicable).

Additional Information. If you have any questions regarding the claims process and/or you wish to obtain a copy of the Bar Date Notice, a Proof of Claim Form or related documents you may do so by: (i) calling the Debtors' restructuring hotline at 844-452-2141; (ii) visiting the Debtors' restructuring website at: <http://www.ommintg.com/charmingcharlie/>; and/or (iii) writing: (a) via hard copy to: Charming Charlie Holdings Inc., Inc., Attn: Claims Processing, c/o, Rust Consulting/Omni Bankruptcy, 5955 DeSoto Ave., Suite 100, Woodland Hills, CA 91367; or (b) via email to: charmingcharlie@ommintg.com. Please note that Rust/Omni cannot offer legal advice or advise whether you should file a proof of claim.

The Bar Date Notice. The General Bar Date is February 19, 2018. The Governmental Bar Date is June 9, 2018. The Amended Schedules Bar Date is as defined herein. The Rejection Damages Bar Date is as defined herein.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that on January 10, 2018, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware ("Court

MARKETS DIGEST

EQUITIES

Dow Jones Industrial Average

26210.81 ▼3.79, or 0.01%
High, low, open and close for each trading day of the past three months.

Trailing P/E ratio 26.16 20.63
P/E estimate * 19.87 17.97
Dividend yield 2.00 2.40
All-time high 26214.60, 01/22/18



Current divisor 0.14523396877348
Session high
DOWN UP Close
Session open ► Open
Close ► Open
Session low
65-day moving average

Bars measure the point change from session's open

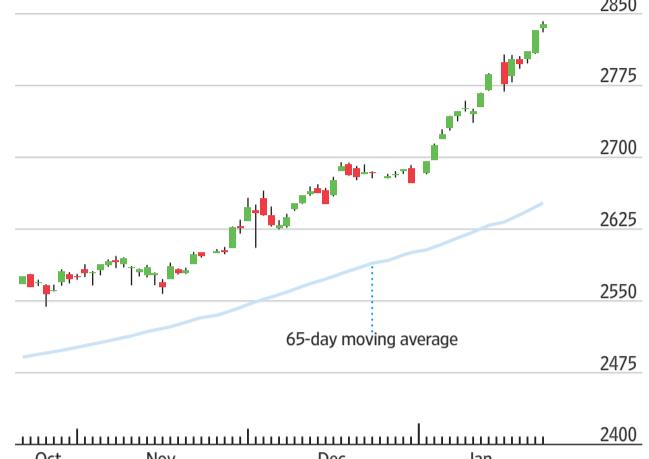
Oct. Nov. Dec. Jan.
21000

Weekly P/E data based on as-reported earnings from Birinyi Associates Inc.

S&P 500 Index

2839.13 ▲6.16, or 0.22%
High, low, open and close for each trading day of the past three months.

Trailing P/E ratio 22.85 24.71
P/E estimate * 18.68 17.45
Dividend yield 1.82 2.15
All-time high 2839.13, 01/23/18



2850
2800
2750
2700
2650
2550
2500
2450
65-day moving average

Oct. Nov. Dec. Jan.
2400

Nasdaq Composite Index

7460.29 ▲52.26, or 0.71%
High, low, open and close for each trading day of the past three months.

Trailing P/E ratio *28.15 15.10
P/E estimate * 21.17 18.85
Dividend yield 0.99 1.17
All-time high: 7460.29, 01/23/18



7400
7200
7000
6800
6600
6400
6200
6000
65-day moving average

Oct. Nov. Dec. Jan.
6200

Major U.S. Stock-Market Indexes

	High	Low	Latest Close	Net chg	% chg	High	52-Week Low	% chg	YTD % chg	3-yr. ann.				
	Dow Jones	Industrial Average	Transportation Avg	Utility Average	Total Stock Market	Barron's 400	SPDR S&P 500	Finl Select Sector SPDR XLF	PwrShrs QQQ Tr Series 1 QQQ	iShares MSCI Emg Markets EEM	FirstEnergy	Intel	General Motors	Cisco Systems
Industrial Average	26246.19	26143.90	26210.81	-3.79	-0.01	26214.60	19864.09	31.6	6.0	14.4				
Transportation Avg	11361.23	11265.42	11344.55	-13.04	-0.11	11373.38	8783.74	22.1	6.9	9.0				
Utility Average	695.79	685.09	691.81	6.95	1.01	774.47	655.21	5.6	-4.4	2.6				
Total Stock Market	29360.44	29237.21	29338.50	71.38	0.24	29338.50	23699.03	23.6	6.0	11.2				
Barron's 400	757.48	752.57	756.74	1.86	0.25	756.74	606.11	24.0	6.4	12.1				

Nasdaq Stock Market

Nasdaq Composite	7465.39	7423.18	7460.29	52.26	0.71	7460.29	5600.96	33.2	8.1	16.2
Nasdaq 100	6969.40	6926.37	6963.46	57.18	0.83	6963.46	5101.06	36.5	8.9	17.6

S&P

500 Index	2842.24	2830.59	2839.13	6.16	0.22	2839.13	2278.87	24.5	6.2	11.4
MidCap 400	1996.30	1983.99	1993.88	4.27	0.21	1993.88	1681.04	17.5	4.9	11.1
SmallCap 600	980.78	972.25	979.19	1.54	0.16	979.19	815.62	16.8	4.6	12.7

Other Indexes

Russell 2000	1612.55	1599.21	1610.71	5.54	0.35	1610.71	1345.24	17.6	4.9	10.7
NYSE Composite	13482.42	13434.94	13474.11	3.74	0.03	13474.11	11205.24	19.8	5.2	7.7
Value Line	588.60	585.29	588.16	0.98	0.17	588.16	503.24	14.1	4.6	5.9
NYSE Arca Biotech	4870.50	4773.74	4861.62	76.74	0.22	4861.62	3134.03	55.1	15.1	9.6
NYSE Arca Pharma	575.24	569.68	569.87	-4.59	-0.80	574.47	469.13	21.5	4.6	1.2
KBW Bank	115.89	114.52	115.50	0.25	0.22	115.50	88.02	26.3	8.2	18.9
PHLX® Gold/Silver	90.06	86.94	89.91	1.60	0.81	96.72	74.62	-2.2	5.4	4.7
PHLX® Oil Service	166.72	163.90	165.49	-0.29	-0.17	191.34	117.79	-12.0	10.7	-5.1
PHLX® Semiconductor	1393.40	1383.18	1392.86	10.45	0.76	1392.86	942.41	47.8	11.2	27.0
Cboe Volatility	11.57	10.76	11.10	0.07	0.63	16.04	9.14	0.3	0.5	-12.7

\$ Nasdaq PHLX

Sources: SIX Financial Information; WSJ Market Data Group

Late Trading

Most-active and biggest movers among NYSE, NYSE Arca, NYSE Amer. and Nasdaq issues from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. ET as reported by electronic trading services, securities dealers and regional exchanges. Minimum share price of \$2 and minimum after-hours volume of 5,000 shares.

Most-active issues in late trading

Company	Symbol	Volume (000)	Last	Net chg	After Hours % chg	High	Low
SPDR S&P 500	SPY	17,505.6	283.06	-0.23	-0.08	283.46	282.76
Finl Select Sector SPDR XLF	XLF	8,284.2	29.72	-0.09	-0.30	29.82	29.71
PwrShrs QQQ Tr Series 1 QQQ	QQQ	5,899.7	169.17	-0.34	-0.20	169.53	157.37
iShares MSCI Emg Markets EEM	EEM	5,695.9	51.05	0.08	0.16	51.06	50.91
FirstEnergy	FE	4,395.1	32.00	...	unch.	32.50	31.99
Intel	INTC	3,630.5	45.73	-0.33	-0.72	46.11	45.40
General Motors	GM	2,805.9	43.38	...	unch.	43.44	43.18
Cisco Systems	CSCO	2,737.8	42.10	...	unch.	42.35	41.83

Percentage gainers...

Cerus	CERS	395.5	5.83	1.50	34.6
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BANKING & FINANCE

FDIC Nominee Backs Small Banks

By LALITA CLOZEL

WASHINGTON—The nominee to head the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. plans to focus on easing regulatory requirements for community banks, encouraging the creation of new banks and tackling cybersecurity, she said at a Senate hearing Tuesday.

Jelena McWilliams, who is currently the top lawyer for Fifth Third Bancorp in Cincinnati, emphasized that she plans to speed up the process for reviewing deposit-insurance applications for banks, a key step toward opening a new institution.

"I will certainly make sure that the FDIC moves swiftly," Ms. McWilliams said to the Senate Banking Committee, where she had previously worked for a number of years. "We need to replenish the banks that actually closed down."

The number of deposit-insurance applications approved by the FDIC dwindled after the financial crisis, dropping from 237 in 2005 to roughly a dozen since 2009.

Additionally, Ms. McWilliams said she plans to review the capital and liquidity standards imposed on community



Community banks were stifled by rules aimed at larger banks, Ms. McWilliams told a Senate panel.

banks after the financial crisis.

Ms. McWilliams said community banks had been stifled by requirements that were aimed at larger banks, including those stemming from Basel Committee on Banking Supervision agreements, as well as the Volcker rule, which prevents banks from engaging in

speculative trading.

"The Basel requirements do apply to them even if it's not by regulation. It's by the trickle-down effect," she said. "Community banks do not do proprietary trading. Nonetheless, they have to do compliance."

Asked where she stood on the concept of reviewing fi-

nancial regulations through the lens of cost-benefit analysis, a popular refrain among Republicans seeking to undo postcrisis regulations, Ms. McWilliams said costly rules ultimately harmed consumers.

"Consumer credit is like a balloon. If you squeeze it here, it's going to come out there,"

she said. "The regulators should not shrink from their responsibilities" to evaluate the impact of rules, she added.

Ms. McWilliams also weighed in on industrial loan companies, a type of banking charter that has gained renewed prominence since online lender Social Finance Inc. and payments processor Square Inc. sought to open their own ILCs last year. SoFi has since dropped its plan. The charter has been controversial because it allows nonfinancial companies to own banks.

ILCs pose no greater risk to financial stability than traditional banks, Ms. McWilliams said. "The law of the land is that the ILCs exist," she added. "The job of the FDIC is to give each ILC application appropriate consideration."

Ms. McWilliams is waiting for the Senate panel to vote on her nomination. She then must be approved by the full Senate. If confirmed, Ms. McWilliams would complete the Trump administration's control of the bank regulators, joining Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell, confirmed Tuesday by the Senate, and Joseph Otting, sworn in as comptroller of the currency in November.

Morgan Stanley Taps Asia Banker

By P.R. VENKAT

SINGAPORE — Morgan Stanley said one of its global co-heads for consumer and retail investment banking will be based in Asia, signaling the increasing importance of deals in rapidly growing sectors in the region.

David Aronovitch, a long-time Morgan Stanley banker who is based in Hong Kong, will share his role with two other executives, according to an internal memo. A Morgan Stanley spokesman confirmed the contents of the memo.

Mr. Aronovitch, 41 years old, joined Morgan Stanley in 1998 as an analyst in its global capital markets division in New York. He has also worked for the bank in London and Singapore. He been running the consumer-and-retail group in Asia since 2009.

He has recently worked on cross-border deals for the firm, including McDonald's Corp.'s sale last year of its restaurants in China to a consortium of local investors and private-equity firms. He also advised Wal-Mart Stores Inc. in 2016 on the sale of its Chinese e-commerce business to retailer JD.com Inc., and worked on the sale of South Korea's Oriental Brewery to Anheuser-Busch InBev in 2014.

Morgan Stanley's two other co-heads of consumer and retail banking, David Ciagne and Ben Frost, are based in New York.

Mr. Aronovitch's appointment highlights a growing appetite for cross-border deals among companies looking to expand in domestic and overseas markets in the consumer sector. Last year, Morgan Stanley led Southeast Asian mergers-and-acquisition league tables by volume, advising on deals worth a total of \$30.3 billion across all industries, according to Dealogic data.

UBS Shifts Managers of Its Wealth Division

By BRIAN BLACKSTONE

Reto Wangler will succeed Dirk Klee as the wealth unit's chief operating officer.

UBS said Monday that it was combining its global and Americas wealth-management units—which manage a combined 2.3 trillion francs (\$2.4 trillion) in client assets—into one division with Martin Blessing and Tom Naratil as co-presidents.

Integrating the units "will allow us to better serve our clients, make further gains in efficiency and effectiveness, and generate greater synergies," the memo stated.

UBS is discussing "future opportunities" with Messrs. Raphael and Klee, according to the memo sent by Messrs. Blessing and Naratil.

Mr. Blessing, a former chief executive of German bank Commerzbank AG, had headed UBS's Swiss banking since 2016. He was named last

Martin Blessing is co-president of a unit that manages \$2.4 trillion in client assets.

month as global wealth-management chief following the unexpected departure of Juerg Zeltner. Mr. Naratil was president of Wealth Management Americas.

The combined wealth-man-

agement units posted adjusted pretax profit of 4.1 billion francs in 2017, up 14% from 2016, with more than 44 billion francs in net new money. The bank's overall profit last year was weighed down by a 2.9 billion franc write-down of deferred tax assets related to the recently enacted U.S. tax overhaul.

UBS has targeted annual, pretax profit growth in wealth management of 10% to 15% on 2%-4% net new-money growth annually.

UBS in recent years has geared its business toward managing wealthy clients' money while maintaining a streamlined investment bank. More recently, rival Credit Suisse Group AG has gone in a

similar direction.

Recent data from the banks appear to support this shift. An October report from UBS showed billionaire wealth around the world up 17% in 2016 to \$6 trillion, with the number of Asian billionaires surpassing those in the U.S. for the first time.

A subsequent report from Credit Suisse showed the number of dollar-based millionaires around the world rose in the year through mid-2017 by 2.3 million, with nearly half of them residing in the U.S.

UBS Chief Executive Sergio Ermotti said Monday he expects wealth management as a business to grow at twice the rate of global gross domestic product in the coming years.

Travelers Hit by Catastrophe Losses Related to California Fires

By NICOLE FRIEDMAN

Travelers Cos. earnings fell in the fourth quarter due to losses from recent wildfires in California.

On Tuesday, the insurance firm said its pretax catastrophe losses, net of reinsurance, totaled \$499 million during the quarter, compared with the range of \$525 million to \$675 million it provided in November. The company's catastrophe losses were \$137 million a year earlier.

New York-based Travelers, part of the Dow Jones Industrial Average, is among the largest sellers of insurance to U.S. businesses and sells car and home insurance to individuals and families. It is one of the first big property-casualty insurers to report quarterly earnings, and its results are watched closely as a bellwether for others that follow.

Travelers' stock soared Tuesday as its results beat analysts' expectations.

The insurance industry was slammed in the second half of 2017 with three major hurricanes—Harvey, Irma and Maria—along with earthquakes in Mexico and wildfires in California. The industrywide losses

from all of those events could near or exceed \$100 billion, according to risk-modeling firms.

In September, Travelers paused its share-buyback pro-

gram as it assessed the impacts of hurricanes Harvey and Irma. It resumed buybacks in November.

Much of the damage from last year's natural disasters was borne by reinsurers. These are specialty firms that agree to take responsibility for some of the risk in policies sold by

insurers to businesses and individuals.

Travelers posted core operating earnings of \$633 million, or \$2.28 a share, down from \$919 million, or \$3.20 a share, a year earlier.

Core operating earnings are a widely watched industry benchmark because they exclude realized capital gains and losses in companies' big investment portfolios as well as items that aren't considered recurring in nature.

Travelers reported a \$129 million charge on its deferred tax assets due to the new U.S. tax law.

Net premiums written, an important measure of revenue growth, rose 6% to \$6.4 billion from \$6.1 billion.

Overall, Travelers reported net income of \$551 million, or \$1.98 a share, down 40% from \$943 million, or \$3.28 a share, a year earlier. Total revenue, which includes investment income, rose 4% to \$7.5 billion.

Analysts surveyed by Thomson Reuters had expected earnings of \$1.51 a share on \$6.3 billion in revenue.

Its shares rose 5% on Tuesday to \$146.33.

Travelers announced last month that its president and chief operating officer, Brian MacLean, is set to retire at the end of March.

—Cara Lombardo contributed to this article.



ERICK MADRID/ZUMA PRESS

Mutual Funds | WSJ.com/fundresearch

Explanatory Notes

Data provided by LIPPER

Top 250 mutual-funds listings based on total net assets for Nasdaq-listed share classes. NAV is net asset value. Percentage performance figures are total returns, assuming reinvestment of all distributions and after subtracting annual expenses.

Figures don't reflect sales charges ('loads') or redemption fees. NET CHG is change in NAV from previous trading day. YTD%RET is year-to-date return. f=Previous day's quotation. p=Distribution costs apply. 12b-1. r=Redemption charge may apply. t=Footnotes and r apply. NA=Not available due to incomplete price, performance or cost data. NE=Not released by Lipper; data under review. NN=Fund not tracked. NS=Fund didn't exist at start of period.

Tuesday, January 23, 2018

Net YTD NAV Chg %Ret Fund

American Century Inv 12.96 ... -0.4 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

Ultra 47.21+0.30 8.7 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

American Funds Cl A 48.19 ... 5.6 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

Baird Funds 24.17+0.04 6.1 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

AmcPA p 33.80+0.17 7.3 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

AMutIA p 42.64-0.02 4.5 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

CorBndl 11.55+0.02 -0.6 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

BalA p 28.13+0.07 3.6 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

BlackRock Funds A 39.50+0.08 4.1 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

CapIBA p 64.68+0.11 3.0 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

CapWGrA 54.23+0.18 6.1 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

EupacA p 59.96+0.22 6.7 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

FdmVA p 66.37+0.20 6.7 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

GwthVA p 53.50+0.38 5.0 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

Bridge Builder Trust 1.0 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

Hr Inv 10.0 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

ICAA p 42.68+0.05 5.7 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

Dimensional Fds 5.9 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

IncoPA p 46.17+0.25 7.4 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

EmgMktCntr 33.82+0.01 8.4 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

N EcoA p 48.11+0.44 7.8 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

Edgewood Growth Insti 24.79+0.10 6.8 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

Federated Instl 15.43+0.04 6.1 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

IntC Eq 59.16+0.24 6.1 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

StratValDVIS 21.99-0.01 7.3 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

Net YTD NAV Chg %Ret Fund

Net YTD NAV Chg %Ret Fund

American Century Inv 22.46+0.09 5.6 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

Freedm2025 K 14.19+0.10 5.3 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

Freedm2030 K 18.96+0.06 5.0 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

Freedm2035 K 16.13+0.05 4.8 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

Fidelity Invest 37.66+0.05 4.8 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

IntSmp 23.48+0.16 4.7 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

InvGB 7.85+0.01 -0.7 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

John Hancock Class 1 24.17+0.04 6.1 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

John Hancock Instl 57.81+0.19 6.1 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

LSBalndc 11.45+0.03 7.1 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

Magln 12.93+0.51 8.0 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

John Hancock Instl 24.49+0.04 5.1 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

JPMorgan Funds 119.53+1.09 8.8 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

JPMorgan Funds 6.21+0.01 1.0 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

Net YTD NAV Chg %Ret Fund

Net YTD NAV Chg %Ret Fund

IncomeFp L 41.91+0.13 4.0 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

IncomeFd 11.51+0.03 -0.7 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

Lazard Instl 17.25+0.14 6.8 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

EmgMktEq 21.47+0.20 7.2 Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund

MARKETS

U.S. Trade Position Puts Focus on Dollar

By CHELSEY DULANEY

The Trump administration's shift this week back to its "America First" trade policies is putting the spotlight back on the U.S. dollar, which economists say is still too strong even after the currency notched its worst year in a decade.

Economists at the Institute of International Finance estimated Monday that the greenback remains about 10% overvalued despite a yearlong slide that has driven the currency down nearly 8% against a basket of 16 currencies tracked by The Wall Street Journal.

The dollar's value has been a subject of much debate since the 2016 election of President Donald Trump. He has blamed the dollar's strength—and foreign currencies' weakness—for the yawning \$500 billion annual U.S. trade deficit. A stronger dollar can hurt U.S. manufacturers and multinationals by making their prod-

ucts more expensive to overseas buyers.

But the administration had largely held back on many of its trade-related threats, such as slapping tariffs on countries it believes are using unfair trade practices or labeling China a currency manipulator. That changed Monday, when the administration announced steep tariffs on imports of cheap solar panels and washing machines aimed at Asian manufacturers, the first step in what officials said would be a series of trade-enforcement actions in the coming months.

To fully close the U.S. trade imbalance, the IIF estimates the dollar would need to fall another 10% from its current levels. IIF economists say the dollar has furthest to fall against the currencies of Asian nations, such as China's yuan, with which the U.S. runs its largest trade deficits.

"A shift in trade rhetoric from the U.S. is emerging as the next major market theme," said analysts at TD Securities in a research note Tuesday.

The decline in bond yields "doesn't help the dollar," said Brian Daingerfield, a strategist at NatWest Markets.

While economic data in the U.S. continue to show signs of solid growth, the broad context that has been driving the value of the dollar has been to view the U.S. expansion as fueling world-wide consumption and activity, Mr. Daingerfield said. "People are looking at the impact of more U.S. growth on the global economy" rather than what it means for the Fed's cycle of rate increases, he said.

That sentiment reflects a forecast by the International Monetary Fund released Monday that predicts global economic growth will reach an inflation-adjusted 3.9% this year and in 2019—which would be the strongest since 2011—due largely to the U.S. tax-cut plans.

—Daniel Kruger

Falling Demand Hits The U.S. Currency

The U.S. dollar slipped Tuesday as a decline in government-bond yields reduced investor demand for the currency.

The Wall Street Journal Dollar Index, which measures the currency against a basket of 16 others, fell 0.2% to 84.08.

The dollar fell 0.6% against the yen, to ¥110.31, after Bank of Japan Gov. Haruhiko Kuroda continued his efforts to cool speculation that the bank will raise interest rates this year. Bond yields in the U.S. also fell after the Japanese central bank signaled it isn't ready to join a global wave of unwinding led by the Federal Reserve. BOJ policies range from negative interest rates to purchasing the country's government bonds.

—Daniel Kruger

That sentiment reflects a forecast by the International Monetary Fund released Monday that predicts global economic growth will reach an inflation-adjusted 3.9% this year and in 2019—which would be the strongest since 2011—due largely to the U.S. tax-cut plans.

—Daniel Kruger

Gas Leaps On Wagers Cold Wave Is on Way

By ALISON SIDER

Natural-gas prices surged Tuesday, posting their biggest daily gains in over a year as traders bet that a cold spell is just around the corner.

Natural gas for February delivery rose 22 cents, or 6.82%, to \$3.444 a million British thermal units on the New York Mercantile

Exchange—the highest settlement since Dec. 30, 2016.

Just a few weeks ago, February natural-gas futures were trading below \$3, with some figuring that the worst of winter had passed following a record cold spell in early January.

"It's a pretty impressive move in a short period. It's a reminder that we're not out of the woods yet with winter," said Andy Huenefeld, price-risk manager at Kinect Energy.

Natural gas is used to heat around half of U.S. homes, so cold weather can cause demand to spike. A recent spate of mild weather had weighed on the market, but weather forecasts are beginning to say temperatures are likely to fall again in February.

"The big story this morning is that the flip back to a colder pattern continues advancing forward," analysts at Commodity Weather Group wrote Tuesday, adding that the first colder-than-normal days could start around Feb. 4.

With the amount of natural gas in storage already at a 12.3% deficit to the five-year average, the shift in weather outlooks has traders scrambling. Some who sold February contracts bet that winter was on its way are having to cover positions, said Tom Saal, senior vice president at INTL FCStone.

"People sold February and bought March, figuring that winter was over. Now they have to buy February and sell March," he said.



Despite sharp gains in oil prices, currencies of countries that produce a lot of oil have lagged behind for an array of reasons.

Oil Fails to Pump Up Currencies

By SAUMYA VAISHAMPAYAN

The seven-month surge in oil prices has left oil-linked currencies in the dust.

U.S. crude oil has gained roughly 50% since its most recent bottom of \$42.53 a barrel on June 21. But the currencies of countries that produce a lot of oil have lagged behind. The Norwegian krone has advanced about 8.4% against the U.S. dollar over the same period, while the Russian ruble and Canadian dollar have each gained about 6% against the greenback.

Those currencies don't even stand out globally. Over the same time, the dollar has dropped against several of its peers, with the ICE U.S. Dollar Index falling about 7% since June 21.

The divergence between oil and oil-linked currencies is unusual. Typically currencies of producing nations do well as oil rises, as they earn more from exports and investor confidence in their economies grows.

This time around, there are a few reasons why oil and currencies such as the ruble are out of sync, according to

Earnings Send Stocks Up

Netflix and others push S&P 500 to a record following solid quarterly results

By AMRITH RAMKUMAR AND DAVID HODARI

The S&P 500 climbed to a record following the latest batch of corporate earnings.

Investors say a rosy economic and policy backdrop has stocks poised to continue marching higher, though some are concerned about the pace of the rally and elevated earnings expectations.

The S&P 500 has set 12 records this month—the most ever in January, according to WSJ Market Data Group.

"The news is looking like it's going to be good for a while," said Thomas Martin, senior portfolio manager at Global Investments in Atlanta. "The bias is going to be upward."

Still, "everybody is concerned that sentiment is at very, very high levels," he added. "You've seen the estimates for growth this year increase—that is a high level of expectations."

The S&P 500 added 6.16 points, or 0.2%, to 2839.13, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average closed down 3.79 points, or less than 0.1%, at 26210.81. The tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite climbed 52.26 points, or 0.7%, to 7460.29.

Netflix was among the biggest movers Tuesday, surging \$22.71, or 10%, to a high of \$250.29 after reporting strong subscriber growth and sales that topped analyst expectations late Monday. The streaming-video company's stock is up 30% this year, as the best-performing internet firms have continued to lead major indexes higher.

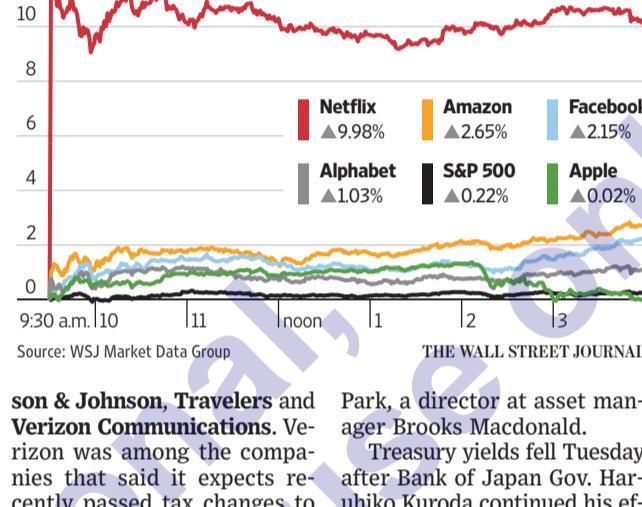
A number of other firms across industries also exceeded analysts' expectations for revenue, including John-



A scene from the Netflix movie 'Bright.' Netflix posted subscriber growth and sales above forecasts.

Streaming Surge

Shares of major technology and internet firms rose after Netflix's latest earnings report.



Source: WSJ Market Data Group

son & Johnson, Travelers and Verizon Communications. Verizon was among the companies that said it expects recently passed tax changes to boost results moving forward.

"A lot of people are suggesting that the true extent of the cuts could be quite a lot more beneficial in both the U.S. and Europe" than companies previously projected, said Edward

Park, a director at asset manager Brooks Macdonald. Treasury yields fell Tuesday after Bank of Japan Gov. Haruhiko Kuroda continued his efforts to squash speculation that the bank will raise rates this year. The yield on the 10-year U.S. Treasury note fell to 2.622% from 2.663% Monday—its highest close since April 2014. Yields fall as bond prices

rise.

Investors will be focusing on the European Central Bank's next policy release, expected later this week, for clues about whether its long-held accommodative monetary policy will end in the coming months.

The Stoxx Europe 600 climbed 0.2% Tuesday, lifted by shares of health-care and travel and leisure companies.

Shares of Sky rose 2.3% after British antitrust regulators said the broadcaster's \$15.5 billion takeover by 21st Century Fox would be against the public's interest. Fox and News Corp., the publisher of The Wall Street Journal, share common ownership.

Asian indexes rose despite some analysts' concerns about the impact of U.S. tariffs on imports of washing machines and solar panels. Japan's Nikkei rose 1.3% to its highest close since 1991, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng added 1.7% and posted a record. At midday Wednesday, the Nikkei was down 0.6% and the Hang Seng was off 0.3%.

—Gregor Stuart Hunter contributed to this article.

BOJ Remarks Boost Treasurys

By SAM GOLDFARB

U.S. government bonds strengthened Tuesday after Bank of Japan Gov. Haruhiko Kuroda undercut speculation that the central bank was close to ending its postcrisis stimulus policies.

The yield on the benchmark 10-year U.S. Treasury note settled at 2.622%, compared with 2.663% Monday, logging its first decline after four sessions of increases. Yields fall when bond prices rise.

Following the BOJ's latest policy meeting, Mr. Kuroda said the central bank wasn't ready to even discuss an exit from monetary stimulus, given that inflation was still less than halfway to its target.

That message helped bolster government bonds across developed markets, sending a cautionary signal to investors that major central banks could take their time shifting to tighter monetary policies despite an improved global-growth outlook. Investors have speculated that better economic data would allow the BOJ and European Central Bank to stop adding to their bond portfolios.

AUCTION RESULTS

Here are the results of Tuesday's Treasury auctions. All bids are awarded at a single price at the market-clearing yield. Rates are determined by the difference between that price and the face value.

FOUR-WEEK BILLS

Applications \$123,090,839,300
Accepted bids \$35,000,543,000
"noncompetitively" \$611,790,300

*foreign noncompetitively \$0
Auction price (rate) 99.904333 (1.230%)

Coupon equivalent 1.248%
Bids at clearing yield accepted 87.48%

Cusip number 912796NT2

The bills, dated Jan. 25, 2018, mature on Feb. 22, 2018.

TWO-YEAR NOTES

Applications \$87,585,235,300
Accepted bids \$29,821,227,800

*foreign noncompetitively \$344,604,300
Auction price (rate) 99.93/1340 (2.066%)

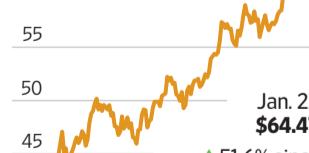
Bids at clearing yield accepted 89.23%
Cusip number 912828357

The notes, dated Jan. 31, 2018, mature on Jan. 31, 2020.

Oil on Top

The performance of oil-linked currencies has trailed the gain in U.S. crude oil.

Crude-oil price



\$64.47
51.6% since June 21, 2017 low

Sources: WSJ Market Data Group (crude); Tullett Prebon (currencies)

Société Générale.

The oil rally is being helped by a dynamic called backwardation, which means that long-term futures contracts are cheaper than short-dated contracts. An investor who doesn't want to end up with a barrel of oil will make money by rolling their futures contracts forward, essentially selling expensive contracts and buying cheaper ones.

While this technical factor is driving oil higher, it doesn't



12%
Norwegian krone
Canadian dollar
Russian ruble

2017 2018

12%
Norwegian krone
Canadian dollar
Russian ruble

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12%
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MARKETS

China Draws Gas Out of Global Market

BY SARAH MCFARLANE
AND NATHANIEL TAPLIN

China is replacing coal with gas, sucking up global supplies of the fuel and pushing up the price of liquefied natural gas to a three-year high.

The world's No. 2 economy is cutting back on coal after President Xi Jinping made a cleaner environment a key priority at last fall's Communist Party Congress.

That has left swaths of industry in China struggling with limited gas, including giants such as German chemical company **BASF** SE and local producer **Yunnan Yuntianhua Co.**, as supplies are diverted to households that had previously relied on coal for heating.

China's smog levels are still well in excess of World Health Organization standards, and analysts see no letup in the country's move out of coal, which releases more greenhouse-gas emissions than gas.

That is good news for the LNG industry, which ships super-chilled gas in its liquid form, at a time when large amounts of new supply have limited price gains.

"We were optimistic on the opportunity in China, but the magnitude surprised us," said Anatol Feygin, chief commercial officer at U.S. LNG exporter **Cheniere Energy Inc.**

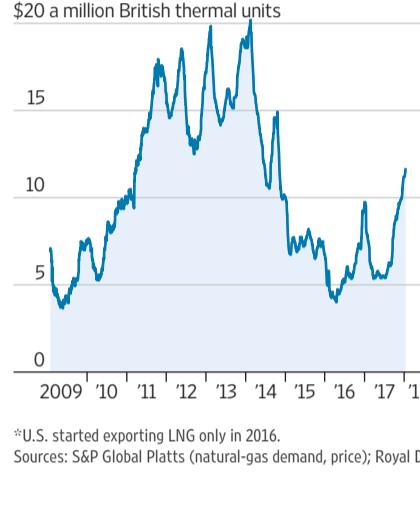
Cheniere opened an office in Beijing in 2017 to market its LNG and is in discussions with **China National Petroleum Corp.** for a long-term sales contract for U.S. gas. Among others, Malaysia's national energy company, **Petronas**, announced plans last year to expand its LNG sales in Southern China.

The price of LNG delivered to Asia hit \$11.70 per million British thermal units this month, its highest level since November 2014, according to the Platts JKM benchmark price.

Chinese LNG imports rose

The country has been shifting away from coal as an energy source, boosting demand for liquefied natural gas.

The higher demand has helped lift LNG prices in Asia.



*U.S. started exporting LNG only in 2016.

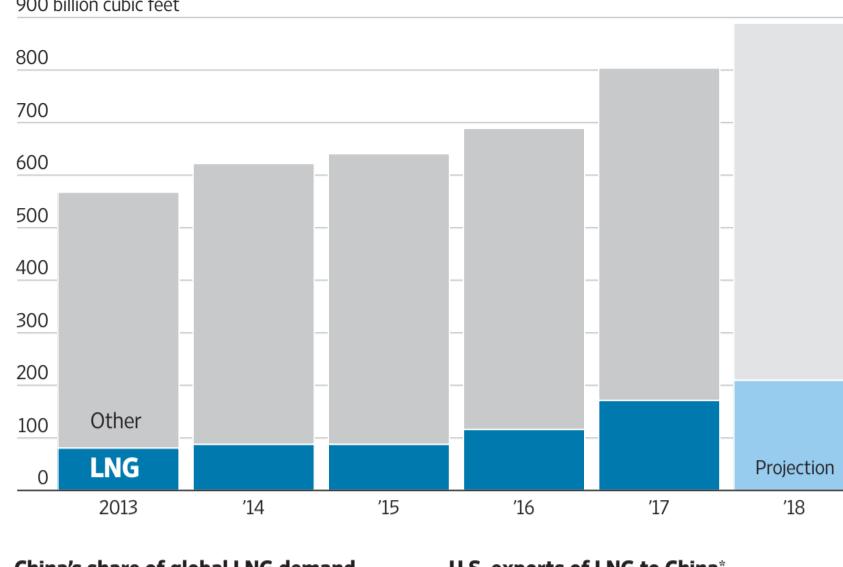
Sources: S&P Global Platts (natural-gas demand, price); Royal Dutch Shell interpretation of Wood Mackenzie data (share); EIA (exports)

almost 50% in 2017, and the country has now eclipsed South Korea to become the world's second-largest importer behind Japan.

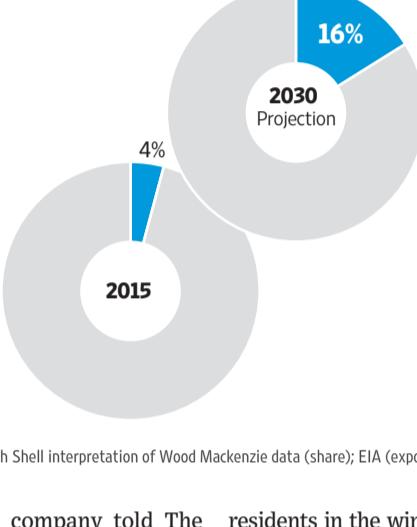
The extra imports still haven't been enough for some parts of Chinese industry.

On Dec. 12, BASF stopped producing some chemicals at a Chongqing-based facility because of "a supply shortage of natural gas," it said at the

Natural-gas demand in China is projected to continue to rise.



China's share of global LNG demand is also forecast to increase.



time. The company told The Wall Street Journal on Tuesday that its production remained suspended and it is unclear when it will resume.

Yunnan Yuntianhua said on Dec. 13 that its ammonia and urea production lines in the southwest province of Yunnan were halted due to "partial suspension in natural-gas supply in southwest regions" to ensure heating demand for

residents in the winter, according to a Shanghai stock exchange filing.

Analysts say that given Beijing's public commitment to improving air quality, the shift away from coal is unlikely to lose urgency over the medium term. But neither will China let citizens freeze, meaning that gas supplies will continue to be diverted to households.

"It's clear that Beijing will

continue its push to reduce reliance on coal," said Fan Qingtian, senior analyst at Changjiang Futures Co.

China has committed to increasing gas's share of its energy mix to 10% by 2020 from its current level of around 7%. That could increase annual gas demand by more than 50% from 2016 levels to 325 billion cubic meters, according to Bernstein. Even after account-

OVERHEARD

Central Bank Inaction Is Seen as Shift

The Bank of Japan stuck to its policy guns Tuesday. The European Central Bank is likely to do the same on Thursday. But even a lack of immediate action can't stop market perceptions of shifting.

Government-bond yields have moved higher in 2018. Last year, such rises were generally quickly reversed, often in response to reassuring messages from central bankers.

But nerves have been jangled in January. First, a small tweak to the BOJ's government-bond purchases raised questions about a shift in policy.

Tesla unveiled a 10-year compensation plan for CEO and Chairman **Elon Musk** on Tuesday. His future compensation will be paid entirely in stock options that vest only if the company hits certain market-value milestones as well as financial targets tied to revenue and adjusted earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization. Mr. Musk would receive options equivalent to 1% of Tesla's total shares outstanding for each milestone. Tesla's market capitalization would need to rise more than 10-fold to \$650 billion in order for Mr. Musk to earn the full option grant.

Some should be simple. Tesla's market value has risen for years, despite numerous missed production forecasts. Revenue and adjusted Ebitda should grow as the Model 3 comes online.

Positive net income and free cash flow, which have eluded Tesla for years, are conveniently omitted from the targets.

Leaving monetary-policy settings unchanged is providing more and more stimulus. That leaves a narrow path for central banks to walk. JP Morgan Chase economists now think the ECB will stop bond purchases in September and have moved forward the first rate rise in 2019 to March.

For markets, that means bond yields could remain higher. Crucially, however, equity markets have powered on. The S&P 500 sports a total return above 6% this year while U.S. Treasurys are down 1.2%.

Ultimately, higher bond yields would be a sign of success for central banks. But equally, they signal a fresh test, raising questions about just how long policy can stay so loose.

—Richard Barley

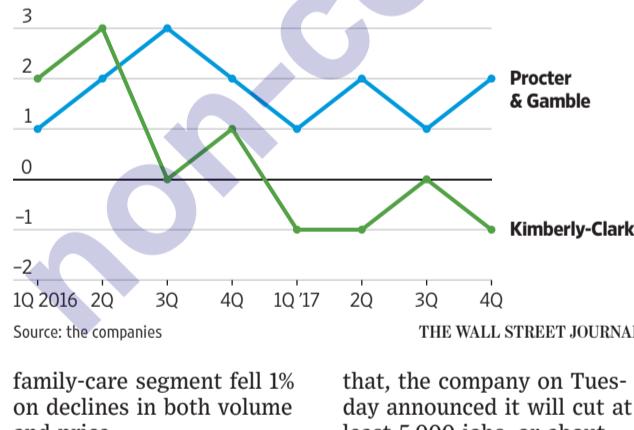
Email: heard@wsj.com

WSJ.com/Heard

Cuts Won't Save Consumer Brands

Where's the Growth?

Organic sales, change from year earlier:



family-care segment fell 1% on declines in both volume and price.

P&G, whose product portfolio is more diverse, was boosted during the quarter by stronger results in other lines such as beauty and health care. But higher input costs and price cuts continued to weigh on margins.

Kimberly-Clark already has a long-term program which aims to save \$1.5 billion through 2021. On top of

that, the company on Tuesday announced it will cut at least 5,000 jobs, or about 13% of its workforce, to take out an additional half a billion dollars of costs by 2021.

But forcing costs lower won't be enough. Investors are eager to see a return to strong sales growth at both companies. This will require continued investment in improved products, and possibly even expansion into new product lines through acquisi-

tions.

Instead, both companies have continued to prioritize the short-term pampering of shareholders. Kimberly-Clark announced a 3% increase to its dividend, boasting that this was the 46th consecutive annual increase. P&G said it now expects to buy back \$6 billion to \$8 billion of shares through the fiscal year ending in June, up from the \$4 billion to \$7 billion previously planned.

But on a conference call, Bank of America Merrill Lynch analyst Olivia Tong said she was surprised by the higher buyback, because "you've said you aren't suffering from a lack of ideas." She asked how the company plans to use money from a lower tax rate over the long run, including possible acquisitions.

When sell-side analysts complain you may be buying back too much stock, you have a problem. To keep investors happy, these consumer groups need to start showing some momentum.

—Aaron Back

Don't Worry, the China Trade War Hasn't Arrived—Yet

Red Ink

U.S. trade deficit with China



President Donald Trump's long-anticipated fusillade against what he calls unfair trade has finally been launched—against South Korean washing machines.

Mr. Trump was elected after campaigning on a promise to get tough on Chinese trade, but his first year in office was notable more for rhetoric than action. The administration's decision on Monday to slap steep new tariffs on solar-panel and washing-machine imports looks different. Is the long-feared China trade war finally here?

Appearances can be deceiving. China is the world's largest solar-cell producer

Malaysia would get hit under the new tariffs, but Chinese workers wouldn't feel the pain directly. The washing-machine tariffs, meanwhile, will mostly hit Korean manufacturers such as **Samsung** and **LG Electronics**. Monday's action fits a pattern of focusing on high-visibility sectors that play well with Mr. Trump's base but won't hit China where it hurts.

The narrow focus of these tariffs explains the muted reaction in markets. Shares in both Shanghai and Seoul rose 1% on Tuesday. Investors waiting for the trade-war shoe to drop will need to worry more if the Trump administration starts imposing

more broad-based penalties on Chinese trade and investment following, say, its investigation into Chinese intellectual-property theft.

If those broader penalties show signs of materializing later in 2018, it would pay for investors to protect themselves in a hurry.

Meanwhile, given strongly rebounding global growth, it probably makes sense to keep watching and waiting.

The risks of starting a true trade war would be large for Mr. Trump. China isn't South Korea or Japan—U.S. allies whom the U.S. can safely harass, up to a point.

Trump needs China's cooperation to have any hope of

reining in North Korea without military action.

Mr. Trump also enters 2018 with the booming U.S. economy as the Republican Party's main political advantage heading into midterm elections. A trade war with China would push up the cost of U.S. consumer goods, erode real wage growth and probably hit farmers in Mr. Trump's rural base particularly hard.

If Mr. Trump does pull the trigger, everyone will suffer, most notably his own party and political base. Many in the president's circle surely understand this. Investors must hope he does too.

—Nathaniel Taplin