

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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★★★★ \$5.00

Last week: **DJIA** 36247.87 ▲ 2.37 0.01% **NASDAQ** 14403.97 ▲ 0.7% **STOXX600** 472.26 ▲ 1.3% **10-YR. TREASURY** ▼ 5/32, yield 4.244% **OIL** \$71.23 ▼ \$2.84 **EURO** \$1.0763 **YEN** 144.95

What's News

Business & Finance

◆ **Cigna abandoned** its pursuit of a tie-up with Humana after shareholders balked at a deal that would have created a roughly \$140 billion giant in the health-insurance industry. **A1**

◆ **An investor group made** a \$5.8 billion offer to buy Macy's, in a bid to take the famed department-store chain private after stiff competition from online rivals took a big bite out of its value. **A1**

◆ **Boeing is set** to name Stephanie Pope, head of its services arm, as chief operating officer, setting her up as the heir apparent to CEO David Calhoun. **B1**

◆ **Consumer prices** in China fell for the second straight month, a deepening bout of deflation that shows Beijing's efforts to reignite faltering growth are falling short. **A8**

◆ **A California judge** granted class certification to a pay-equity lawsuit against Disney, setting the stage for a jury trial next year over claims the company paid women less than their male counterparts. **B3**

◆ **Elon Musk said** conspiracy theorist Alex Jones would be reinstated on the X social-media platform in a reversal of the billionaire's previous position. **B2**

◆ **Telehealth orthodontics** company SmileDirectClub, once valued at \$8.9 billion, said it would wind down global operations, effective immediately. **B3**

◆ **About 44 million** options contracts have changed hands on an average day in 2023, on track for an annual record based on Options Clearing Corp. data. **B1**

World-Wide

◆ **The Israeli military** is searching and detaining hundreds of Palestinian men in and around Gaza City, triggering concerns from human-rights groups that prisoners are being mistreated. **A1, A8**

◆ **New England Patriots** owner Robert Kraft is matching a \$100 million donation to his Foundation to Combat Antisemitism, giving the project \$200 million in new funding that he says will sustain the cause for decades to come. **A6**

◆ **Trump said he wouldn't** testify again in his civil-fraud trial, a change of course in the former president's defense against allegations that threaten his business empire. **A4**

◆ **The Biden administration's** efforts to renew a section of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act faces an uphill battle amid increasing opposition from some members of both political parties and a looming end-of-year deadline. **A3**

◆ **Pressure on the Senate** to reach a sweeping deal combining funding for Ukraine with changes to immigration policy became more intense, with senators expressing urgency about concluding an agreement. **A4**

◆ **Arizona is poised** to take center stage in state-level battles over abortion this week when its highest court weighs whether to allow a near-total ban on the procedure to take effect. **A3**

◆ **Chinese coast-guard ships** blasted water cannons at Philippine boats near a contested atoll in the South China Sea, amid rising tensions between the two countries. **A9**

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Milei's Swearing-In Draws Visitor From Ukraine



GUEST LIST: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, left, attended the swearing-in of Argentina's new president, Javier Milei, in Buenos Aires on Sunday. It was the Ukrainian leader's first official trip to Latin America. **A9**

Israel Faces Outcry as Photos Of Detainees in Gaza Emerge

By SHAYNDI RAICE
AND CARRIE KELLER-LYNN

The Israeli military is searching and detaining hundreds of Palestinian men in and around Gaza City, triggering concerns from human-rights groups that prisoners are being mistreated.

The Israeli military says many of the men are militants who are surrendering, a sign that Hamas is losing control of the Gaza Strip, where intense fighting between both sides

continued on Sunday. But images circulating of what appear to be scores of men, stripped down to their underwear, come as international pressure mounts on Israel to abide by the rules of war and help alleviate the growing humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

"The war is still ongoing, but this is the beginning of the end of Hamas," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday, adding that dozens of militants had surrendered to the Israeli

military. "I say to Hamas terrorists, it's over. Don't die for [Hamas leader Yahya] Sinwar. Surrender—now."

A Hamas spokesman denied that any of the group's fighters surrendered and said the images were of civilians arrested by Israeli forces. "The occupation has been accustomed to fabricating such scenes to create a presumed victory against our resistance fighters," he said.

In recent days, the Israeli media has shown photos and videos of dozens of Palestinian

men in their underwear being detained by the Israeli military. Late Saturday, a video circulated of a man emerging from a crowd in his underwear, carrying a rifle above his head and placing it on the ground.

In some of the images, men are blindfolded and sitting in rows. In most, they have their

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◆ **For Rep. Tlaib, Mideast war is a crucible.....** **A4**
◆ **Israel's grid plan for Gaza faces challenges.....** **A8**

Colleges' Free Speech Policies Draw More Scrutiny

By DOUGLAS BELKIN
AND LAURA KUSISTO

Appearing before a House committee examining antisemitism, University of Pennsylvania President Liz Magill acknowledged that calls for genocide to the Jewish people are hateful—but said they are protected by the school's commitment to freedom of speech.

The next evening, in a video message, Magill backtracked and apologized for her testimony, saying the attacks were unacceptable.

"In today's world, where we are seeing signs of hate proliferating across our campus and our world, in a way not seen in years, these policies need to be clarified and evaluated," she said.

On Saturday, Magill said she was resigning as Penn's president, and Penn's board chair also stepped down amid continued pressure from donors, lawmakers and other critics.

Magill's flip-flop—and subsequent pledge to carve out broader exceptions to the First Amendment—is emblematic of the inconsistency with which Penn and other schools have applied free-speech principles on campus, some legal scholars said.

Too often, said Will Creeley, legal director at the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression, schools will invoke the principles of free speech when it suits them, and condemn faculty and students who champion impolitic views

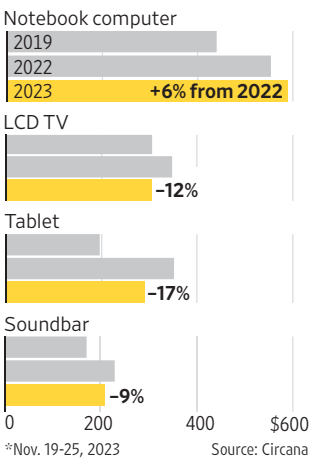
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◆ **Antisemitism charity gets \$200 million.....** **A6**
◆ **U.S. Jews grapple with safety, religious display... A12**

Consumers Get a Break

Prices for electronics, appliances, flights and cars are showing signs of easing. **A3**

Average prices for the week of Black Friday for each year



Investor Group Makes Offer Of \$5.8 Billion to Buy Macy's

By LAUREN THOMAS

An investor group has made a \$5.8 billion offer to buy Macy's, in a bid to take the famed department-store chain private after stiff competition from online rivals took a big bite out of its value.

Arkhouse Management, an investing firm focused on real estate, and Brigade Capital Management, a global asset manager, on Dec. 1 submitted a proposal to acquire the Macy's stock they don't already own for \$21 a share, people familiar with the matter said.

That represented a roughly 32% premium to where shares

closed the day before. They have risen this month and closed at \$17.39 each on Friday.

That is still a far cry from where Macy's stock traded in 2015—as high as \$70 a share—before competition from nimble digital retailers took a toll on the business and that of other erstwhile industry stalwarts.

The group already has a big position in Macy's through Arkhouse-managed funds. It has discussed the proposal with Macy's, whose board subsequently met to discuss the offer.

It isn't clear how the retailer views the proposal.

The investor group, which believes Macy's is undervalued in the public markets, has indicated that it would be willing to raise its offer, subject to due diligence.

An investment bank has provided a letter supporting the group's ability to raise the necessary financing to get a deal across the finish line.

Macy's operates nearly 500 department stores under its namesake banner. It also owns Bloomingdale's, a higher-end department-store chain with more than 30 locations, and a number of discount and smaller-format shops under

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Hamas Leader Studied His Enemy

Yahya Sinwar drove strategy to exploit Israel's willingness to trade prisoners

By RORY JONES, SUMMER SAID,
DOV LIEBER AND SALEH AL-BATATI

When Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar was imprisoned in Israel more than a decade ago, he explained to an Israeli official a theory now central to the war in Gaza.

Sinwar said that what Israel considers its strength—that most Israelis serve in the army and soldiers hold a special status in society—is a weakness that can be exploited, said Yuval Bitton, who spent time with Sinwar as the former head of the Israel Prison Service's intelligence division.

The idea proved accurate in 2011 when Sinwar was one of 1,027 Palestinian prisoners freed for a single Israeli soldier.

Now, Sinwar is holding 138 hostages, including Israeli soldiers, and the Hamas leader is betting he can force

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Great Balls of Fire! Bus-Melting Jet Cars Are Getting Scarce

As racetracks close and engines get harder to find, the spectacles are endangered

By JOHN KEILMAN

Magditude is a 1946 Chevy pickup modified with a jet engine. It wasn't put there for speed.

On a rainy September night, the truck rumbled onto the infield of the Rockford Speedway in Illinois, stopping

with its business end about 10 feet from a junk minibus. The engine whined to life and shot a blast of fire from its afterburner, engulfing the bus until it was reduced to a charred metal skeleton.

"There's nothing left of that thing!" the announcer

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INSIDE



PERSONAL JOURNAL

Extra steps to keep distracted middle-school boys from falling behind. **A11**



SPORTS

Deal gives Ohtani a solid path toward playing in the postseason. **A14**