

# THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

## What's News

### Business & Finance

- ◆ **Big U.S. banks passed** their latest annual stress test, with the Federal Reserve finding they would be able to continue lending to households and businesses in a severe recession even while suffering steeper losses than last year. **B1**
- ◆ **Goldman Sachs' asset management arm** has raised \$3.4 billion in one of the largest pools of capital targeting stakes in private real-estate funds. **B1**
- ◆ **The family of fugitive financier Jho Low** will turn over to U.S. authorities a Paris luxury apartment and artworks in the latest settlements in the fraud case. **B1**
- ◆ **The trading platform** Interactive Brokers is launching contracts that allow customers to wager on future events related to the economy and climate. **B1**
- ◆ **Southwest Airlines cut** its revenue guidance for the current quarter, citing complexities in adapting to shifts in booking patterns. **B3**
- ◆ **Shares of General Mills** fell 4.6% after it reported lower quarterly sales and gave tepid annual guidance. **B3**
- ◆ **Former Outcome Health CEO Rishi Shah** was sentenced to 7½ years in prison for his part in a nearly \$1 billion scheme centered on video ads in doctors' offices. **B3**
- ◆ **Activist investor Jana Partners** has a stake in Rapid7 and plans to push the cybersecurity company to sell itself, according to people familiar with the matter. **B4**
- ◆ **A jump in tech behemoths** pushed the Nasdaq up 0.5%. The S&P and Dow rose 0.2% and 0.04%, respectively. **B11**

### World-Wide

- ◆ **Wall Street Journal reporter** Evan Gershkovich appeared in a Russian court to face a false accusation of espionage in a secret trial, as a senior Kremlin official said Moscow was open to a prisoner-swap deal. **A1**
- ◆ **The Supreme Court** rejected a lawsuit alleging that Biden administration officials unlawfully pressured social-media platforms to remove content flagged as disinformation. **A1**
- ◆ **The high court appears** ready to let emergency abortions be performed in Idaho, according to a draft version of a decision the court accidentally posted on its website and then quickly removed. **A1**
- ◆ **Growth in the Hispanic** population propels a slight rise in the U.S. population while also buttressing metro areas. **A2**
- ◆ **BP supervisors** missed opportunities to prevent a 2022 explosion that killed two brothers, federal investigators found. **A3**
- ◆ **Harvard task forces** found that Jewish, Muslim and Arab students on campus were harassed, bullied and discriminated against. **A3**
- ◆ **Former Honduran leader** Juan Orlando Hernández was sentenced to 45 years in a U.S. prison for helping drug cartels ship cocaine into the U.S. **A5**
- ◆ **Kenya's president** said he would withdraw a proposed law on large-scale tax increases, a day after nationwide protests against the measures turned deadly. **A6**
- ◆ **Soldiers in Bolivia** tried to storm the presidential palace in what President Luis Arce called an attempt to overthrow his leftist government. **A6**

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## WSJ Reporter on Trial in Russia

Proceedings against Gershkovich on false espionage accusation condemned as 'sham'

By ANN M. SIMMONS

Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich appeared in a Russian court Wednesday to face a false accusation of espionage in a secret trial, as a senior Kremlin official told reporters that Moscow was open to the possibility of a prisoner-swap deal that would send him home.

The 32-year-old U.S. journalist has been imprisoned since March of last year, when he was arrested by the country's Federal Security Service, or FSB, while on a reporting assignment in Yekaterinburg, around 900 miles east of Moscow. Gershkovich, the Journal and the U.S. government vehemently deny the accusations against him. The U.S. has designated him as "wrongfully detained" and has called for his immediate release. On a day that Gershkovich was put on display in a padlocked, transparent box in a

Yekaterinburg courtroom, Sergei Ryabkov, Russia's deputy foreign minister, again raised the prospect of a prisoner exchange with the U.S., something that has become a common refrain from Russian officials. The Kremlin has "repeatedly emphasized that the U.S." should "seriously consider the signals" Moscow has sent to Washington about possible deals, he told state news agency RIA Novosti. A State Department spokesperson, asked about the Ryabkov comments, said: "We aren't going to negotiate in public." John Kirby, a spokesman

for the National Security Council, on Wednesday condemned the proceedings against Evan as a "sham trial." He said Gershkovich "is simply being used as a bargaining chip," along with another U.S. citizen held by Moscow, Paul Whelan. Russian investigators haven't publicly presented evidence to back up their allegation against Gershkovich. And Russia's legal system offers few, if any, of the legal protections accorded in the U.S. and other Western countries. Acquittals in espionage cases are

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## Justices Rule for President In Social Media Suit

Court says plaintiffs lack standing in case where U.S. says sites aired disinformation

By JAN WOLFE

The Supreme Court rejected on Wednesday a lawsuit alleging that Biden administration officials unlawfully pressured social-media platforms to remove content flagged as disinformation, ruling that two GOP-led states and several individuals who posted content online didn't suffer harms that allowed them to sue. The 6-3 decision written by Justice Amy Coney Barrett capped a wild ride for a case that was a product of the Covid-19 era and persistent claims that conservative viewpoints about lockdowns, vaccines, pandemic election rules and other issues were being censored online.

The lawsuit, led by Republican state attorneys general in Missouri and Louisiana, had fared well in the lower courts, at one point resulting in an unprecedented injunction that blocked several government agencies and scores of officials from communicating with social-media companies about removing "content containing protected free speech" from their platforms.

The high court said the plaintiffs, which included a handful of doctors, an antivaccine activist and a far-right web publisher, failed at a first fundamental step for any lawsuit: showing that they had suffered specific injuries that judges are capable of redressing.

The lawsuit improperly asked the court "to conduct a review of the yearslong communications between dozens of federal officials, across different agencies, with different social-media platforms, about different topics," Barrett wrote. "This Court's standing doctrine prevents us from exercising such general legal oversight of the other branches of Government."

Barrett also noted that online platforms had their own incentives to moderate content and enforce policies aimed at removing false and misleading content, independent of their discussions with the government.

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◆ **Court raises bar for public-corruption cases.....** A4



Evan Gershkovich was put on display in a transparent box at the start of his secret trial Wednesday in Yekaterinburg, Russia.

## A Shadowy Judicial System Poses Immense Hurdles for Defense

Wall Street Journal correspondent faces trial in court that produces few acquittals

By MATTHEW LUXMOORE AND THOMAS GROVE

On Wednesday morning, Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich entered a Yekaterinburg courtroom at the start of his secret trial. Television cameras crowded around him as he stood in a cage surrounded by bulletproof glass, his head newly shaved due to prison rules. Then the media was ushered out, leaving him with his defense team, the state prosecutor and one or more judges. Neither U.S. Embassy personnel nor the reporters' friends or fellow jour-

nalists were allowed to remain. Gershkovich, a 32-year-old American journalist, was detained in Yekaterinburg in March 2023 on an espionage accusation that he, the U.S. government and The Wall Street Journal vehemently deny. What happens in Gershkovich's secret trial is largely a mystery, as even the lawyers representing him are restricted from publicly discussing the trial. Conviction could carry a prison sentence of 10 to 20 years. In 2021, the judge now overseeing Gershkovich's trial told a local news outlet that he had only issued three or four

acquittals in 21 years of service. Gershkovich is now ensnared in a shadowy judicial system that operates largely at the service of the state security apparatus. Government prosecutors wield immense power, information is restricted, defense evidence is sidelined and Moscow's propaganda machine is deployed to discredit defendants unable to speak for themselves. Few are ever acquitted. Russian President Vladimir Putin indicated in February that he would be open to a prisoner swap with the U.S. for Ger-

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## Go Woke, Go Broke? Nah, Say Ben, Jerry

By SAABIRA CHAUDHURI

Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield are about as well known for their progressive politics as they are for quirky ice cream flavors like Chunky Monkey and Phish Food. Their experiment in melding business with social justice for years seemed like a model to which many in the corporate world were warming up. And then attitudes cooled. Some businesses have started to put less emphasis on the kinds of social and political issues that Ben & Jerry's has championed. Certain investors have urged corporations to stick with what they know best.

For their part, the lifelong friends, both now 73 years old, said their style of corporate activism isn't bad for business—just the opposite. Most companies aren't comfortable engaging with social issues because "they don't want to potentially alienate

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## INSIDE



### JOANNA STERN

AI is going to change Apple's gadgets—here's a guide to what's safe to buy this summer. **A10**



### SPORTS

A high-tech approach in Kentucky built the NBA draft's best shooter. **A12**

## How an Old Jar of Pickles Put A St. Louis Suburb on the Map

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In Des Peres, Mo., mysterious container left on an exit ramp keeps winning fans

By JOE BARRETT

DES PERES, Mo.—Susan Plank had been using an unremarkable highway exit next to a busy mall in this St. Louis suburb for about 4-1/2 years when her daughter finally spotted what avid fans say makes it special: a jar of pickles sitting atop a concrete bar-

rier. Why in the world are there pickles in the median of the highway and who put them there? they wondered. Then they did some research and found out that nobody really knows. That day last fall was when the pickles "started to bring

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## Draft Ruling Suggests High Court to Allow Emergency Abortions

By JESS BRAVIN AND LAURA KUSISTO

WASHINGTON—The Supreme Court appears ready to let emergency abortions be performed in Idaho, despite the state's near-total ban on procedure, according to a draft version of a decision the court accidentally posted on its website Wednesday and then quickly removed.

By a 6-3 vote, the draft decision dismisses the state of Idaho's appeal of a lower-court order temporarily permitting emergency abortions under federal law governing hospitals that accept Medicare, according to a copy posted by Bloomberg News, which discovered the document.

Idaho state law forbids the procedure except when necessary to save a woman's life. The Biden administration, which sued the state, argued that federal law is more permissive, authorizing emergency abortions when needed to stabilize a patient in a health crisis.

The Supreme Court issued a statement saying no decision

was final. The opinion "has not been released," the statement said. "The Court's Publications Unit inadvertently and briefly uploaded a document to the Court's website. The Court's opinion in these cases will be issued in due course."

The document displayed a court, already far behind its usual schedule, deeply divided over the emergency-abortion question two years after it eliminated women's constitutional right to end unwanted pregnancies.

The draft order dismissing the case as "improvidently granted" was brief and unsigned, but all nine justices weighed in through concurring and dissenting opinions. Six justices were ready to resolve the basic issue, the document shows: three siding with the Biden administration's view, three agreeing with Idaho. But the deciding hand was played by the triumvirate at the center of the right-leaning court: Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Co-

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