

The Boston Globe

Serving our community since 1872

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2024

US judge rules Google is ‘a monopolist’

Landmark decision says it abused search dominance; may limit Big Tech’s power

By David McCabe
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — Google acted illegally to maintain a monopoly in online search, a federal judge ruled Monday, a landmark decision that strikes at the power of tech giants in the modern internet era and that may fundamentally alter the way they do business.

Judge Amit P. Mehta of US District Court for the District of Colum-

bia said in a 277-page ruling that Google had abused a monopoly over the search business. The Justice Department and states had sued Google, accusing it of illegally cementing its dominance, in part, by paying other companies, such as Apple and Samsung, billions of dollars a year to have Google automatically handle search queries on their smartphones and web browsers. “Google is a monopolist, and it

has acted as one to maintain its monopoly,” Mehta said in his ruling.

The ruling is a harsh verdict on the rise of giant technology companies that have used their roots in the internet to influence the way we shop, consume information, and search online — and indicates a potential limit of Big Tech’s power. It is likely to influence other government antitrust lawsuits against Google, Apple, Amazon, and Meta, the owner of Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp. The last significant antitrust ruling against a tech company targeted Microsoft more than two

decades ago.

The decision is a major blow to Google, which had fiercely defended itself against the allegations. Internet search is a core driver of the company’s profits, and the ruling could have major ramifications for its future success, especially as Google spends heavily to compete in the race over artificial intelligence.

Monday’s ruling did not include remedies for Google’s behavior. Mehta will now decide that, potentially forcing the company to change the way it runs or to sell off part of

GOOGLE, Page A10

Recession fears fuel deep slide for stocks

Investors worry that Fed decision to keep rates high will trigger major job losses

By Larry Edelman
GLOBE STAFF

Fear is back on Wall Street.

Stock prices plummeted on Monday, led by the same big-name tech stocks that had powered this year’s rally, as investors here and abroad grew panicky that a deteriorating job market could drag the US economy into a recession.

The sell-off extended losses sustained on Friday after the Labor Department reported weak job growth for July and an unexpected rise in unemployment.

The losses abated somewhat after a stomach-churning morning plunge, but the Standard & Poor’s 500 index ended the day down 3 percent, its biggest decline in nearly two years. The Dow Jones industrial average lost

Dow
-2.6%
S&P 500
-3%
Nasdaq
-3.4%

►Dow drops 1,000 points in sell-off. D4.

2.6 percent and the tech-laden Nasdaq Composite index fell 3.4 percent.

While past market darlings such as AI chip giant Nvidia (down 6.4 percent) and Apple (down 4.8 percent) were hard hit, the damage was widespread. Small stocks, which enjoyed a sharp runup in July amid hopes of falling interest rates, also got

ECONOMY, Page A5

Family faced financial ruin before tragedy

Murder-suicide report details lies, events that preceded deaths in Dover

By Dana Gerber
GLOBE STAFF

When police officers first walked into the stately foyer in the Kamal family’s 21-room mansion in Dover on Dec. 28, they found a typed message on a piece of paper — intended, it appeared, for the person scheduled to retrieve the keys for the foreclosed property that day.

“Please Note,” it read, “Before entering call the Police to first check three bedrooms on the second floor. Each room will be marked by a white sheet of paper.”

Behind those doors, police soon found, were the bodies of Teena and Rakesh “Rick” Kamal and their daughter, Arianna Kamal. Authorities would later determine that Rick Kamal killed his wife and daughter in their beds, before turning an unregistered Glock pistol on himself in a second-floor bathtub.

KAMAL, Page A7



PAT GREENHOUSE/GLOBE STAFF

During a Mass in Bethany Chapel in Braintree on Monday, Bishop Richard G. Henning (right), of Providence, embraced Cardinal Seán P. O’Malley. The archbishop-elect said he was humbled by the size and history of the Boston Archdiocese.

A NEW SHEPHERD FOR THE CATHOLIC FAITHFUL

Archdiocese introduces Bishop Henning of Providence as cardinal’s successor

By Danny McDonald, John R. Ellement, and Shelley Murphy
GLOBE STAFF

BRAINTREE — Boston’s next archbishop struck a tone of humility Monday as he was formally named the successor to Cardinal Seán P. O’Malley, who will retire this fall after more than 20 years at the helm of the region’s 1.8 million-member Roman Catholic community.

“I am not worthy of this call,” said archbishop-elect Richard G. Henning, who was tapped by Pope Francis for the role, during an introductory press conference at the archdiocese’s pastoral center in Braintree. “I was deeply shocked and surprised by this call.”

The news of O’Malley’s retirement was not unexpected — he turned 80 in June, and can no longer vote in papal elections as a cardinal — but it represents the end of an era in Boston, the two-decade aftermath of the explosion of the sex abuse scandal here and around the world. After years of settlements, policy revisions, church closings, and efforts to rebuild the church’s financial stability, O’Malley, a distinctive figure in his brown Capuchin robe and white beard, will be replaced by a relatively unknown, much younger man, who has served less than seven years as bishop, not quite two years of which were spent in Providence.

The new bishop will face a raft of issues that are riddling Greater Boston, including

a migrant crisis, a housing and affordability crunch, and an opioid scourge, to say nothing of a politically polarized society.

Henning described himself as neither an activist nor a politician, but rather “a sinner in need of grace.” He said he was humbled by the size and history of the Boston Archdiocese.

“I’m not that exciting,” said Henning, 59, who is currently the bishop of Providence.

Henning and O’Malley were peppered with questions on a wide array of topics — immigration, abortion, election politics, clergy sex abuse — during the half-hour news conference. Henning’s rhetoric was plain-spoken and conciliatory.

HENNING, Page A10

For nonprofit pharmacy users, a bitter pill

Program that allows steep drug price discounts faces industry call for cutbacks

By Thomas Lee, Diti Kohli, and Tiana Woodard
GLOBE STAFF

BROCKTON — Since the Brockton Neighborhood Health Center opened its own pharmacy more than a year ago, the facility has acted as an oasis for a community that sorely lacks drugstores.

As CVS, Walgreens, and Rite Aid closed hundreds of stores across the state in recent years, nonprofit community pharmacies like the one in Brockton — and others in Dorchester, South Boston, and Roxbury — have stepped up to fill the void.

But they face an uncertain future. Drug companies and front-line providers have been battling over a rapidly growing federal program that these

PHARMACIES, Page A7



JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

As chain pharmacies close, Brockton Neighborhood Health Center helps fill a gap, passing on to customers savings from a drug discount program.



What a drip

Tuesday: Cloudy, showers.
High 70-75, low 60-65.

Wednesday: A pleasant day.
High 66-71, low 60-65.

Obituaries, **C9**.
Comics and Weather, **D5-6**.

VOL. 306, NO. 37

*
Suggested retail price
\$4.00



Taking aspirin on a regular basis can significantly reduce the risk of developing colorectal cancer for individuals who have unhealthy habits like smoking, drinking, or leading a sedentary lifestyle, Harvard scientists reported. **B1**.

A health system that operates hospitals for low-income people said it made a bid for all Steward Health Care hospitals in Massachusetts but couldn’t reach an agreement. Steward is planning to close two of those hospitals. **D1**.

Tropical Storm Debby slammed Florida with catastrophic flooding and was blamed for multiple deaths, with historic Southern cities next in its path. **A2**.

For breaking news, updated stories, and more, visit our website:

BostonGlobe.com