

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

What's News

Business & Finance

- ◆ **Nvidia became** the world's most valuable listed company this week due to demand for its AI chips, leading a tech boom that brings back memories from around the start of this century. **A1**
- ◆ **New allegations** that the Alexander brothers engaged in sexual assaults now threaten to bring down one of the biggest names in the gilded world of luxury real estate. **B1**
- ◆ **Startup Fisker**, which sought to mimic Tesla's success, filed for bankruptcy, roughly a year after releasing its first EV model. **B1**
- ◆ **Rents in several cities** in the Northeast and Midwest are rising this year, posing a threat to the fight against inflation. **B1**
- ◆ **Italian fashion company** Golden Goose, the maker of Super-Star sneakers, postponed its IPO, citing European market volatility. **B3**
- ◆ **More than a quarter** of Toyota's shareholders opposed the reappointment of Chairman Akio Toyoda to the board. **B3**
- ◆ **Stellantis has issued** a safety recall for more than one million vehicles in the U.S. with rear-view-camera issues that could increase the risk of a crash. **B3**
- ◆ **Samsung said** its latest laptop has encountered problems running some software programs, including popular games. **B4**
- ◆ **Global stocks were mixed** and U.S. index futures wobbled, after Nvidia dethroned Microsoft to become the world's most valuable listed company. U.S. markets were closed for the Juneteenth federal holiday. **B10**

World-Wide

- ◆ **Russia's military** cooperation with Iran, North Korea and China has expanded into the sharing of sensitive technologies that could threaten the U.S. and its allies long after the Ukraine war ends, according to U.S. officials. **A1**
- ◆ **Putin said** he and North Korea's Kim Jong Un had struck a deal to provide mutual aid if either of their countries was attacked. **A6**
- ◆ **The Los Angeles** Unified School District has voted to ban cellphones during the entire school day. **A3**
- ◆ **Louisiana will require** public schools to display the Ten Commandments, reigniting the debate over where such displays are permissible. **A3**
- ◆ **A challenger** backed by Trump was narrowly leading incumbent Rep. Bob Good (R, Va.), but the race remained too close to call. **A4**
- ◆ **Problems with leaks** and thrusters on Boeing's Starliner vehicle have postponed the return of two astronauts on the International Space Station until Wednesday. **A2**
- ◆ **Russia said** it was awaiting a response from Washington to its proposals for a possible exchange of prisoners. **A6**
- ◆ **Xi ordered** a redoubled campaign to eradicate graft and enforce loyalty in China's military, suggesting no end to a purge in the country's defense establishment. **A6**
- ◆ **Tensions heated up** along Israel's Lebanese border, as the Israeli military approved a plan for a possible invasion and Hezbollah showed off what it said was drone surveillance of northern Israeli cities. **A7**

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Juneteenth Marks Freedom's Long, Slow March



DEREK ANGIER/AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

LIVING HISTORY: U.S. Colored Troops regiment re-enactors joined other celebrants near the Lincoln Memorial in Washington for Juneteenth, which commemorates the day in 1865 when enslaved African-Americans in Galveston, Texas, learned they were free.

U.S. Adversaries Helped Putin Rebuild Russia's War Machine

By WARREN P. STROBEL
AND MICHAEL R. GORDON

WASHINGTON—Russia's military cooperation with Iran, North Korea and China has expanded into the sharing of sensitive technologies that could threaten the U.S. and its allies long after the Ukraine war ends, U.S. defense and intelligence officials said.

The speed and depth of the expanding security ties involv-

ing the U.S. adversaries has at times surprised U.S. intelligence analysts. Russia and the other nations have set aside historic frictions to collectively counter what they regard as a U.S.-dominated global system, they said.

In a sign of the closer military relations, President Vladimir Putin of Russia and North Korea's Kim Jong Un said on Wednesday in Pyongyang that they had struck a deal to pro-

vide mutual aid if either country were attacked, describing the relationship as an alliance.

Moscow's expanded outreach to North Korea, Iran and China began after Putin's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine, as early battlefield setbacks and Western sanctions sent Russia desperately looking for new sources of weapons.

But the arrangements have morphed into joint production agreements, technology trans-

fers and supplying of workers that officials said are improving Moscow's long-term capabilities, and potentially those of Tehran, Pyongyang and Beijing.

For decades, the former Soviet Union exported billions of dollars in weapons to the developing world. Now the relationship is partially reversed,

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◆ **Russia and North Korea** deepen security ties..... **A6**

Nvidia Becomes Biggest Company In World

Market cap swells to top Microsoft's, echoing Cisco's rise in the dot-com boom

By ASA FITCH

Nvidia became the world's most valuable listed company this week due to the demand for its artificial-intelligence chips, leading a tech boom that brings back memories from around the start of this century.

Nvidia's chips have been the workhorses of the AI boom, essential tools in the creation of sophisticated AI systems that have captured the public's imagination with their ability to produce cogent text, images and audio with minimal prompting.

The last time a big provider of computing infrastructure was the most valuable company in the U.S. was in March 2000, when the networking-equipment company Cisco took that spot at the height of the dot-com boom.

Cisco was riding the wave of a different revolution—the internet—with its products powering that budding industry. Like Nvidia, Cisco surpassed Microsoft to become the most valuable company.

John Chambers, who was chief executive of Cisco during

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◆ **Global stocks mixed** after Nvidia spurs U.S. rally.... **B10**

Regional Banks Unload Risk Onto Investors

By MATT WIRZ

Regional banks around the U.S. are striking complex and costly bargains with hedge funds, hoping to insulate themselves from a replay of the turmoil that followed Silicon Valley Bank's failure last year. Wall Street smells a payday.

Ohio-based Huntington Bancshares recently entered into an arrangement to sell investors some of the risk that its borrowers won't repay their loans. That helps the bank meet new proposed standards meant to make lenders look healthy to regulators.

The deal is known on Wall Street as a synthetic risk transfer, and it offers cash-flush, private-debt fund managers—such as Ares Management and Blackstone—an attractive investment.

Bayview Asset Management, the fund involved in Huntington's December deal, stands to make as much as 15% on the trade and a similar one done for SoFi Bank, people familiar with the matter said.

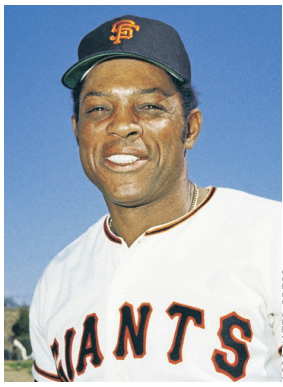
Others are doing the deals, too. Large regional lenders including Utah-based Ally Bank and North Carolina-based Truist Financial are working on their own transactions to sell the risk on billions of dollars of loans, according to the data provider Finsight and letters to the banks from the Federal Reserve.

Regulators are forcing the banks to meet stricter rules to protect themselves from crises of confidence, such as the ones that toppled SVB and recently shook New York Community Bank.

Ultimately, risk transfers should help banks stabilize and start spending money

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INSIDE



ASSOCIATED PRESS

JASON GAY

Willie Mays was a baseball legend, but that's only the start of his story. **A12**

Social-Media Influencers Are Barely Getting By

Platforms pay less for popular posts, brands get pickier

By SARAH E. NEEDLEMAN
AND ANN-MARIE ALCÁNTARA

Many people dream of becoming social-media stars like YouTube's MrBeast or TikTok's Charli D'Amelio. But for most who pursue careers as content creators, just making ends meet is a lofty goal.

Clint Brantley has been a full-time creator for three years, posting videos on TikTok, YouTube and Twitch where he comments on news and trends related to the online game "Fortnite." Despite having more than

400,000 followers, and posts that average 100,000 views, his income last year was less than the median annual pay for full-time U.S. workers in 2023—\$58,084, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics data.

The 29-year-old is hesitant to commit to an apartment lease because the money he gets, mainly from online tips and sponsorship deals, arrives randomly and could vanish at any moment. For now, he's living with his mom in Washington state.

"I'm vulnerable," he says.

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Ease of Credit-Card Challenges Invites Abuse

By IMANI MOISE

Malolan Vasu felt duped when a \$750 wingback chair he ordered turned out not to be as antique as advertised when he went to pick it up. The seller had a no-refund policy, but Vasu had a surefire way to get his money back.

With a few clicks and even

fewer questions asked, Vasu disputed the charge to his Capital One credit card—a power move millions of shoppers are relying upon to win retail arguments.

So swift and effective was the process that the 22-year-old financial analyst said disputing charges has become his go-to way to settle grievances

large and small. A few weeks later, he filed his second dispute, this time over a \$3 tip that was tacked onto a bar tab without his permission.

"Three dollars is inconsequential, but the point was I didn't tip him and it's unethical," he said.

Disputes over credit-card charges, once a measure of

last resort, have surged as shoppers learn how easy it is to deploy them. Last year, consumers disputed about 105 million charges with credit-card issuers in the U.S., worth an estimated \$11 billion. That is up from \$7.2 billion in 2019, according to Datos Insights, a finance-industry research

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Mist Opportunity: San Francisco Woos Tourists With Weather

* * *

City markets its chilly, foggy summer as a way to beat heat hitting much of U.S.

By JIM CARLTON

SAN FRANCISCO—Forget all the talk about the doom loop. San Francisco is leaning into its gloom loop.

A few weeks ago, marketers for Pier 39 put up a billboard in an inland California city where temperatures often top 100 degrees: "It's Cooler on The Bay." A be-whiskered sea lion stares ahead, practically taunting.

Randall Scott, executive di-

rector of neighboring Fisherman's Wharf, hails from the Central Valley and isn't shy about lording San Francisco's most-prized summertime asset over his relatives. "They'll say, 'God it's miserable here,' and I'll say, 'It's 58 degrees here,' and they say, 'Oh you suck!'" Scott said.

After weathering a barrage of bleak post-pandemic headlines, San Francisco is now getting a boost,

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Illicit Trade Impedes Gaza Aid



MOHAMMED ABEID/AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

IN DEMAND: Cigarettes sell for as much as \$25 each in Gaza. Smugglers are targeting aid trucks and storage depots where smokes are hidden, making it dangerous to deliver supplies. **A7**