

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

What's News

Business & Finance

◆ **Verizon is in** advanced talks to acquire Frontier Communications in a deal that would bolster the company's fiber network to compete with rivals including AT&T, according to people familiar with the matter. **A1**

◆ **U.S. Steel's chief executive** said the company would close steel mills if its planned sale to Nippon Steel collapses, as the Biden administration moves closer to blocking the deal. **A1**

◆ **Worries about a** softening labor market helped push the S&P 500 down 0.2%, extending Tuesday's slide, while the Nasdaq fell 0.3% and the Dow rose 0.1%. **B9**

◆ **Nordstrom's founding** family made a \$3.8 billion bid to take the retailer private, its second attempt to revive the department-store chain out of public view. **B1**

◆ **SpaceX moved to** evacuate employees from Brazil and warned others against traveling to the country as Elon Musk's dispute with a local judge over X touches some of his other businesses. **B1**

◆ **Jeep's parent, Stellantis,** paused production of two of its top-selling U.S. models, the Jeep Wrangler and Grand Cherokee, people familiar with the matter said. **B1**

◆ **Shares of Hormel fell** 6.4% after the food producer missed revenue forecasts and reduced its guidance for annual sales. **B3**

◆ **Alibaba will offer** payment services from rival Tencent on its biggest online marketplaces, a milestone toward breaking down the walls that divide Chinese internet giants. **B4**

World-Wide

◆ **The Biden administration** accused Putin of orchestrating a covert campaign to influence the U.S. presidential election and erode international support for Ukraine, blaming the Kremlin for targeting American voters with political propaganda and disinformation. **A1**

◆ **A 14-year-old opened fire** at a Georgia high school, killing two students and two teachers, officials said. Authorities interviewed the boy last year about threats to commit a school shooting. **A3**

◆ **Democratic presidential** nominee Kamala Harris proposed a less-dramatic increase in the top capital-gains tax rate, breaking with a plan Biden outlined in his budget blueprint earlier this year. **A4**

◆ **President Volodymyr Zelensky** shook up his government as he aims to bolster Ukraine's military and political positions ahead of the U.S. presidential election. **A7**

◆ **Haiti faces critical delays** in internationally promised manpower and funding to help repel gangs that have killed thousands and displaced many more of the country's residents, acting Prime Minister Garry Conille said in an interview. **A16**

◆ **The family of George Glezmman** told the White House it would negotiate directly with the Taliban to try to secure the American's release from Afghanistan. **A7**

◆ **A report on a 2017** London high-rise fire that killed 72 people concluded that decades of failures by government, regulators and industry turned Grenfell Tower into a "death trap." **A16**

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Contenders Step Out of the Shadows at U.S. Open



BIG BREAK: Briton Jack Draper on Wednesday defeated Alex de Minaur to advance to the U.S. Open semifinals. The other semifinal on Friday will pit Americans Frances Tiafoe and Taylor Fritz against each other—and will send the first American to the U.S. Open men's final since 2006. For more U.S. Open coverage with Jason Gay, go to [WSJ.com/Sports](#).

Verizon Nears Deal for Frontier In Bid to Boost Fiber Network

Verizon is in advanced talks to acquire Frontier Communications in a deal that would bolster the company's fiber network to compete with

By Lauren Thomas, Jessica Toonkel and Drew Fitzgerald

rivals including AT&T, according to people familiar with the matter. An announcement could come this week, granted the talks don't hit any last-minute

snags, the people said. A deal would be sizable, given Frontier's market value of more than \$7 billion. The company, cobbled together by several deals over the years, provides broadband connections to about three million locations across 25 states. Verizon, the top cellphone carrier by subscribers, has faced increased pressure from competitors and from cable-TV companies that offer discounted wireless service backed by Verizon's own cellular network.

Frontier's shares were briefly halted and closed up 38% Wednesday after The Wall Street Journal reported on the deal talks. Verizon's shares closed down more than 3%. Verizon has a market valuation of around \$175 billion. Verizon will be under pressure from shareholders to justify any big purchase after the company paid more than \$45 billion to secure 5G friendly wireless spectrum licenses and spent billions of dollars more to use them. Executives have said they are focused on

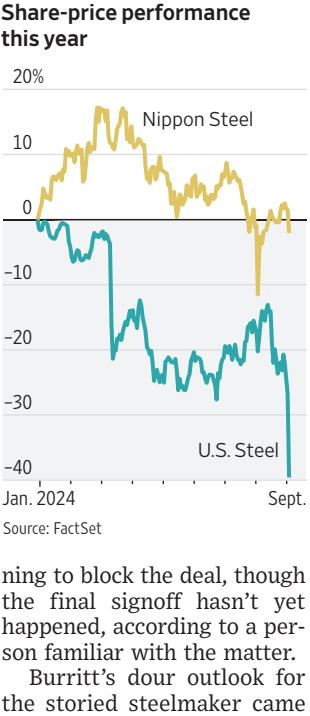
trimming the telecom giant's leverage to put it on a firmer financial footing. Verizon has its Fios-branded fiber network, and AT&T has focused on expanding its fiber network since shedding its WarnerMedia assets in 2022. Fiber M&A has heated up as telecom companies and financial firms pour capital into neighborhoods that lack high-speed broadband or offer only one internet provider, usually from a cable-TV company. Faced with slowing wireless

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Biden Set to Halt U.S. Steel Sale, Amid Threat of Plant Closings

By BOB TITA

U.S. Steel's chief executive said the company would close steel mills if its planned sale to Nippon Steel collapses, as the Biden administration is moving closer to blocking the deal. CEO David Burritt said the nearly \$3 billion that Japan-based Nippon Steel has pledged to invest in the Pittsburgh company's older mills is critical to keeping them competitive and maintaining workers' jobs. "We wouldn't do that if the deal falls through," Burritt said in an interview. "I don't have the money." He also said the company would likely move its headquarters out of Pittsburgh if the deal fails. President Biden, who earlier this year said that U.S. Steel should remain domestically owned and operated, is plan-



after Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris took the same position Monday. Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump and several members of Congress have similarly lined up against the \$14.1 billion deal, which the United Steelworkers union also opposes. U.S. Steel shares fell 17% Wednesday to \$29.38 after the initial reports that Biden would scuttle the deal. U.S. Steel and Nippon Steel said they haven't received any update or executive order related to the national-security review. "We continue to stand by the fact that there are no national-security issues associated with this transaction, as Japan is one of our most staunch allies," U.S. Steel said. Nippon Steel said its planned investments would put U.S. Steel and the American steel

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Deadly Disorder Threatens New Mothers

Preeclampsia is on the rise in the U.S., yet there's little research about it

By BETSY MCKAY

Five days after Katie Harrington gave birth to her son, she got a headache so blistering it made her cry. Her vision blurred. Her blood pressure soared. The 28-year-old returned to the hospital, close to her home in Manchester, N.H., where doctors put her on medications to prevent a seizure and lower her blood pressure. They discharged her two days later, when she was improving. Hours later, her blood

pressure rose again. Harrington had preeclampsia, a life-threatening complication during and after pregnancy that's diagnosed in part by a sudden increase in blood pressure. The disorder has become increasingly common, including among women who are otherwise healthy—and yet much about it remains a mystery. The rate of preeclampsia and other disorders in pregnancy related to high blood pressure more than doubled between 2007 and 2019. "It's

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A 'Cat-astrophe' Is Brewing At 10 Downing Street

Larry, the 'Chief Mouser,' meets his sixth prime minister; this one has rival felines

By PRIYA BHARADIA AND DAVID LUHNOW

LONDON—New British Prime Minister Keir Starmer has a lot on his mind, from the riots that swept England recently to Britain's sluggish economy to the war in Ukraine. But the former prosecutor has another issue troubling him: How to handle Larry the Cat. Everyone knows the real power at 10 Downing St. is Larry, a tabby who has ruled

the roost since 2011. He was brought in by former Prime Minister David Cameron's family as a rescue to help rid the offices of unwanted rodents. Larry, officially the Chief Mouser to the Cabinet Office, has now outlasted five prime ministers—and their pets. A British icon, he has his own X account, with 900K followers. He is so well known that Downing St. has even reportedly made plans for how to break the news of his eventual

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INSIDE



JOURNAL REPORT
The Wall Street Journal/College Pulse ranking of the best colleges in the U.S. **R1-B**

Bosses Are Drowning In AI-Buffed Résumés

By KATHERINE BINDLEY

Technology companies have embraced the efficiencies that artificial intelligence has brought to the hiring process. Now they are dealing with the downside of candidates who leverage it themselves. Candidates are using generative AI tools to build résumés that are customized to each job for which they are applying. They can fire off résumés in rapid succession or have bots do so. They are also relying on AI to prepare for interviews. As a result, tech firms and recruiters are reinserting some human review and adding screening steps.

While candidates have long inflated their experience during job searches, recruiters said there has been a rise in so-called fake candidates—people who misrepresent their experience and identities. These candidates are applying for remote roles with experience on their résumés that is found to be made up. Recruiters suspect fake candidates are getting through Zoom interviews by using software or having a third party feed them answers. For years companies have relied on software that automates aspects of hiring. The process has frustrated applicants who can be removed

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