

# THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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## What's News

### Business & Finance

◆ **Paramount Global CEO** Bob Bakish stepped down in a leadership shake-up that comes as the company works through a merger drama and is looking to jump-start its beleaguered business. **A1, A8**

◆ **Lawmakers are** proposing to compel institutional owners of single-family rental homes to sell houses to family buyers facing high prices amid scarce supply. **A1**

◆ **Executive flights** on corporate jets are worth much more to the officers who take them than is reported on companies' books, a Wall Street Journal analysis found. **A1**

◆ **Beijing cleared Tesla** to roll out its advanced driver-assistance service in China as Musk seeks to expand the use of the technology globally. **B1**

◆ **The NHTSA launched** a probe into the safety of Ford's hands-free driving system after two recent deadly crashes. **B1**

◆ **A surge in Tesla stock** helped the U.S. market extend its rally. The S&P 500 gained 0.3% and the Dow and Nasdaq both rose 0.4%. **B11**

◆ **Comcast's NBCUniversal** is prepared to pay an average of about \$2.5 billion a year to air a package of NBA games, as Warner Bros. Discovery makes last-ditch efforts to keep those rights, people familiar with the matter said. **B2**

◆ **Philips said it reached** a \$1.1 billion settlement in the U.S. related to its Respironics ventilators and backed its full-year guidance. **B3**

◆ **The FDA codified** how it will oversee medical-testing labs, seeking to hold their work to standards of accuracy and appropriateness. **A3**

### World-Wide

◆ **Secretary of State** Antony Blinken launched an uphill diplomatic push in the Saudi capital to pause the bitter conflict in the Gaza Strip as it takes a heavy toll on civilians, inflames anti-Israel sentiment in the U.S. and complicates Biden's path to re-election. **A1**

◆ **Gaza's Palestinian** health authorities said they can no longer count all their dead given the difficulty in gathering data. **A6**

◆ **Columbia began** suspending students in a pro-Palestinian encampment on campus who remained past the latest deadline, as pressure mounted on the university's president. **A3**

◆ **The places and voter** groups that gave the most support to Nikki Haley in her bid for the GOP presidential nomination show Trump's biggest vulnerabilities heading into the general election. **A4**

◆ **Russian forces** recently seized several villages in eastern Ukraine, making relatively small gains against Ukrainian forces who have ceded ground as they wait for promised U.S. military aid. **A16**

◆ **The Kremlin is again** tightening the screws on free speech in Russia, detaining several journalists in recent days on allegations ranging from extremism to discrediting the military. **A16**

◆ **Four law-enforcement** officers were killed in a shootout in Charlotte, N.C., as a U.S. Marshals Task Force served a warrant for a felon. **A2**

◆ **Scotland's first minister**, Humza Yousaf, resigned, triggering a leadership contest as the governing Scottish National Party seeks to avoid early elections. **A7**

**CONTENTS** Markets..... B11  
Arts in Review..... A11 Opinion..... A13-15  
Business News..... B3 Personal Journal A9-10  
Crossword..... A11 Sports..... A12  
Equities..... B8 Technology..... B4  
From Page One..... A8 U.S. News..... A2-4  
Heard on Street..... B12 World News..... A6-716



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## Universities Struggle to End Campus Protests



CHRIS URSO/TAMPA BAY TIMES/IZUMA PRESS

**OVERPOWERED:** University of South Florida police officers take a pro-Palestinian protester into custody during a march on the campus Monday in Tampa. In New York, Columbia University began suspending students who remained at an encampment. **A3**

## Media Heiress's Bid to Sell Sparks Mayhem in Paramount

By JESSICA TOONKEL

Shari Redstone was finally ready to cash out.

The media heiress who controls Paramount Global, owner of CBS, MTV, Nickelodeon and the Paramount film studio, last year started seriously contemplating selling the business.

She began to feel the pinch of the entertainment giant's decline when management cut the dividend that has supplied

### CEO Bakish Steps Down

Three division heads will now run Paramount in 'Office of the CEO' ..... **A8**

income to the Redstone family for years. She showed friends photos of the house she was building in Turks and Caicos. The Oct. 7 attacks on Israel

left her motivated to spend more time on fighting anti-semitism, according to people close to her.

So when David Ellison, the CEO of production company Skydance Media and son of billionaire Larry Ellison, raised the idea of a merger, Redstone was ready to hand over a media empire her family has controlled for nearly four decades.

If only it were that easy. In the past few weeks, Red-

stone's journey toward a deal has turned into one of the messiest merger dramas in memory, with Paramount announcing Monday it parted ways with CEO Bob Bakish.

The fate of an iconic American company—home of "Titanic," "The Godfather," and the "Indiana Jones" franchise—hangs in the balance.

Shareholders are rebelling bringing to the fore a central tension that has always been *Please turn to page A8*

## Home-Buying Firms Draw Lawmakers' Ire

By WILL PARKER

Wall Street went on a home-buying spree. Now, more lawmakers want to stop it from ever happening again.

Democrats in the U.S. Senate and House have sponsored legislation that would force large owners of single-family homes to sell houses to family buyers.

A Republican's bill in the Ohio state Legislature aims to drive out institutional owners through heavy taxation.

Lawmakers in Nebraska, California, New York, Minnesota and North Carolina are among those proposing similar laws.

While homeowner associations for years have sought to

stop investors from buying and renting out houses in their neighborhoods, the legislative proposals represent a new effort by elected officials to regulate Wall Street's appetite for single-family homes.

These lawmakers said that investors that have scooped up hundreds of thousands of houses to rent out are contributing to the dearth of homes for sale and driving up home prices. They argue that investor buying has made it harder for first-time buyers to compete with Wall Street-backed investment firms and their all-cash offers.

Investors of all sizes spent billions of dollars buying homes during the pandemic. *Please turn to page A2*

### INSIDE



**PERSONAL JOURNAL**  
Millions of children are now parents' caregivers as families struggle with costs. **A9**

**BUSINESS & FINANCE**  
McDonald's aims to nearly double its restaurants in China to more than 10,000. **B1**

## Investors Pour Cash Into AI Startups With Little Revenue

By BERBER JIN

Artificial intelligence startup Imbue has hoodies branded with its circular orange logo, an office in the heart of San Francisco and marquee investors who lavished the company with more than \$210 million.

Work and life blend together for its few dozen employees, who share their emotions with one another at a weekly event called "Feelings Friday" to build trust and connection.

More than two years into its founding, what the startup

doesn't have is a business—or a product that could create one.

Despite a broad downturn in the startup sector, investors chasing the stock market successes of Nvidia and Microsoft have deluged AI upstarts with record levels of funding, minting dozens of companies with billion-dollar valuations in the past year. The investment frenzy is already fueling concerns of a bubble as startups struggle to translate the hype into revenue.

*Please turn to page A7*

◆ **Large data hubs slow** green shift..... **B10**

### House GOP Daredevils Cause Jitters

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Despite a razor-thin majority—let's go skydiving!

By KATY STECH FERREK

WASHINGTON—The first text message Rep. Rudy Yakym (R., Ind.) sent after skydiving in January was to House Majority Whip Tom Emmer to tell him that he was OK—and that Republicans' ranks hadn't been further diminished.

"Don't worry, Tom. Your whip count is still safe," he wrote.

It was half jest, half reassurance. Yakym is among a group of adrenaline junkies in the Republican conference embracing extreme sports in their free time—which might make for fun office chatter *if* *Please turn to page A4*

## Executive Flights Cost More Than Reported

By THEO FRANCIS

Companies report spending millions of dollars to fly top executives to vacation homes and resorts. For the executives, the savings are far higher.

Disney said it spent almost \$800,000 for Bob Iger to use company aircraft for personal trips in the last fiscal year. Taking similar trips at his own expense would have cost the chief executive more than \$2 million, a Wall Street Journal analysis found.

The same is true for other executives. Netflix co-founder Reed Hastings took personal flights on company aircraft in 2022 that would have cost him about \$2.2 million by Journal estimates; the company reported spending about half as much. CEO David Calhoun's personal flights on Boeing's tab would have cost him \$1.25 million, more than double what the company said it spent.

At many of the biggest U.S.

companies, CEOs and other executives are getting tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars more in flight benefits than company disclosures suggest. The contrast underscores the gap—already stark with the stock and options that make up the bulk of CEO pay—between the reported costs of executive compensation and the benefit executives receive.

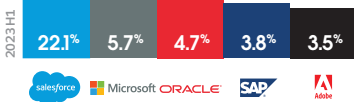
Executive jet use is under heightened scrutiny after the Internal Revenue Service announced a plan to audit personal aircraft use by executives and wealthy individuals.

The corporate jet looms large among the perks that the biggest U.S. companies offer their top executives. Many corporate officers are allowed to take the jets on vacation, to visit relatives or commute from other homes—and some can fly family and friends—all at company expense.

Boards often require CEOs *Please turn to page A2*

## Salesforce. #1 CRM.

Ranked #1 for CRM Applications based on IDC 2023H1 Revenue Market Share Worldwide.



Source: IDC, Worldwide Semiannual Software Tracker, November 2023.



[salesforce.com/number1CRM](https://salesforce.com/number1CRM)

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